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*Lawrence, John*

THE

# Sportsman's Calendar, OR, MONTHLY REMEMBRANCER OF FIELD DIVERSIONS.

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BY THE AUTHOR OF  
THE BRITISH FIELD SPORTS.



London :

PRINTED FOR SHERWOOD, NEELY, AND JONES,  
PATERNOSTER-ROW.

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## ADVERTISEMENT.

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THE BRITISH FIELD SPORTS having been honoured with so considerable a share of public patronage, and experienced such an extensive circulation, the Author felt anxious to contribute still further to general convenience. He therefore compiled the present EPITOME, and flatters himself that it will be found to contain matter of general interest to the great body of SPORTING GENTLEMEN, and of those also who have the ambition of becoming SPORTSMEN. To the protection of such, he respectfully commits it.

*This Day is published,*  
A NEW & ELEGANT WORK, ENTITLED,  
**British Field Sports;**  
EMBRACING PRACTICAL INSTRUCTIONS IN  
SHOOTING, HUNTING, COURSING, RACING, FISHING, &c.  
*With Observations on the Breaking and Training of Dogs  
and Horses; also, the Management of Fowling  
Pieces, and all other Sporting Implements.*

BY WILLIAM HENRY SCOTT.

This Work is beautifully printed on fine paper, hot-pressed, and completed in Twelve Parts, price 3s. each, in *Demy 8vo.* and 5s. in *Royal*; except Part XII. the price of which is 4s. *Demy*, and 7s. *Royal*. Complete, price of the *Demy 8vo.* 1l. 8s. in *Boards*, and of the *Royal 3l. 8s.* It is illustrated with upwards of *Fifty highly-finished Engravings*, Thirty-four on Copper, executed in the most characteristic style of excellence by those eminent Artists, SCOTT, WARREN, GREIG, TOOKEY, DAVENPORT, RANSON, and WEBB, from paintings by REINAGLE, CLENNELL, ELMER, and BARRENGER; the remainder cut on wood, by CLENNELL, THOMPSON, AUSTIN, and BEWICK.

The Author's object has been, to present, in as compressed a form as real utility would admit, Instructions in all the various **FIELD SPORTS** in modern practice; thereby forming a book of general reference on the subject, and including, in one volume, what could not otherwise be obtained without purchasing many and expensive ones. The means he has possessed for accomplishing so desirable a purpose, he trusts, have enabled him to produce such a Work on the subject of **FIELD SPORTS**, as, in point of paper, printing, illustration, and embellishment, is not to be equalled in the English Language.

" It gives us pleasure to observe the respectability of the Work entitled, " BRITISH FIELD SPORTS." In this kingdom the Sports of the Field are highly characteristic and interesting: as gentlemanly diversions they have been pursued with an avidity as keen, and a taste as universal, as the relish of nature's beauties: a corresponding value is set on them, and an appropriate polish is added by time and practice: the various minutiæ in the knowledge of which, and the technical distribution of this knowledge, together with facts, instructions, and anecdotes, form the basis of this valuable publication."

*Farmer's Journal, March 23, 1818.*



## September.

### Sporting Engagements.

#### SHOOTING.

HEATH AND MOOR GAME;  
PARTRIDGE; HARE;  
FLAPPERS; LANDRAIL;  
FEN or AQUATIC BIRDS.

#### HUNTING.

#### COURSING.

#### FISHING.

PIKE; TROUT; SALMON;  
PERCH; ROACH; DACE;  
CHUB; BREAM; BAR-  
BEL; EELS; GRAYLING;  
CARP; AND TENCH.

#### RACING.

AT WARWICK, MORPETH,  
BEDFORD, AYR, BUR-  
DEROP, PONTEFRACT,  
ENFIELD, CRICHLADE,  
LITCHFIELD, BASING-  
STOKE, BURTON-UPON-  
TRENT, SHREWSBURY,  
KINGSCOTE, DUMFRIES,  
LINCOLN, NORTHAMP-  
TON, LEICESTER, DON-  
CASTER, CHIPPEHAM,  
BEECLES, OSWESTRY,  
WALSALL.

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SHOOTING, our most general rural diversion, has its well-known commencement on the first day of this month, which may be properly styled the commencement of the *Sporting Year*. Shooting in this month, of all the Field Sports, attracts the most general, and with many, the sole attention ; it being rather a season of training for hounds, in Hunting and Coursing, than of much real business : and with respect to the leading and favourite diversion, the pursuit of the partridge is the grand object, to which even *Grouse shooting*, so lately commenced, gives place for a time. The Sportsman who aims at reputation in the field, in unison with his own highest gratification, will, as the most indispensable preliminaries, be provided with staunch dogs, well-proved guns, comfortable and neat sporting attire, and every other requisite for the pleasurable occasion ; and will, beyond all things, fortify his mind with prudent forecast against those dreadful accidents which too often damp the pleasures of the field. Those who in this month, find leisure from the pursuit of the partridge, to turn their attention to the quail and landrail, in those countries where they are to be found, will observe, that when a bevy of

quail are disturbed, they separate in rising, and scarcely ever, at that time, rejoin. The birds fly to a short distance, and are easily shot on the wing, but run the instant they reach ground, and generally escape. The *Landrail* is a solitary bird, lying on the stubbles and grass; it flies slowly, and to a short distance, sometimes lighting on a bush or twig, running on the ground like the quail. In speaking of the superior attraction of partridge-shooting during this month, an exception must be made of the devoted *Aneler*, who suffers no other to interfere with his favourite diversion. In the HEAD to each Month, he will find a list of the fish in season; as will our TURF friends a list of the Places in which Races are held; in the mean time, we proceed in the regular line of our instructions on the various sports, and the particulars relative thereto, as indicated by the Table of Contents and the Marginal References.

The Sportsman's first object is his GUN; his next, how to use it: his Dogs follow. Considerable improvements have been made within the last thirty years, both in the barrel and lock of the gun, with respect to quickness and accuracy of discharge, and still greater as to ornament and high price. Double-barrel guns have come much into use, and seem to accord with the desires of the eager Sportsman. Good

pieces may be purchased in most, or all of our large towns; but the choicest, as well as the highest priced, are, in course, to be met with in the metropolis, where are generally half a dozen, or upwards, of makers, distinguished for their reputation. Among these are to be found the recent inventions, such as *water-proof and fulminating locks, and detonating barrels*; novelties which, however highly-prized by individuals, have not yet received the sanction of general approbation. It would be of little use to describe these novel applications of inventive art, since, in order to obtain adequate ideas, it is necessary to see and try them. The cost of one of these superior pieces, at first hand, may be as high as seventy guineas, but they are often to be met with upon much lower terms, at the warehouses of Wilson, in *Vigo-Lane*, or Cuff, in *New Bond-Street*. Economists may purchase, whether in London or the country, a good serviceable and neat single gun, at a price between ten and twenty guineas.

The SPORTING ARMS in present use, are, the *common Fowling Piece*, the *double-barrelled Gun*, the *long Shore*, or *Duck Gun*, and the *short barrel*, for Partridge and Pheasant shooting in woods and covers. The latter, about two feet eight inches in the barrel, are found extremely convenient, and said to do execution at an equal dis-

tance with the three, or even old four feet pieces; at any rate, they are fully sufficient at a reasonable distance. The *London* cylindrical twisted barrels, hammered to perfection, and the improved cocks, with the elegant finish of the piece, are now generally allowed to approach the nearest to perfection. The old breeching by a pin or plug, very sufficient indeed, seems to have given place among fashionable makers, to *Nock's* solid breeching, by which, from the pan being posited nearer to the charge, the advantage has been obtained of a quicker explosion, and some suppose, of a more forceful projection of the shot. An object of the greatest consequence is, that the barrel has been thoroughly proved, for which the purchaser must chiefly depend upon the reputation and integrity of the person of whom he purchases. This consideration is still of greater consequence with respect to double guns, the barrels of which should be particularly substantial, round and entire; as formerly, it was the custom to file away the substance of each barrel, in order to their union with a solder of lead and tin. The TOUCH HOLE, not made so large as formerly, is now almost always of *platinum*, which stands the action of fire better than gold.

The Lock must not act with too great force or stiffness, nor too much facility, the same of the

**TRIGGER.** The HAMMER must be of middling temper, not so hard that the flint will make no impression, nor yet so soft, or like lead, that fire will be extracted with uncertainty. It may be new steeled when too much worn. The *solid Cock* falling on its end, instead of being stopped in the middle, by the lock plate, has a fashionable preference. The utility of the *gravitating stop*, intended to insure against accidents with double guns, whilst cocked, has not been yet confirmed; as to the *cheek-piece*, and *scroll-guard*, they were invented, as it turned out, for the purpose of being laid aside. *Gun-stocks* of the best quality, are made of walnut tree; ash and maple are occasionally used for the purpose. In ordering a gun of the maker, precise directions may be given, at the convenience of the Sportsman, as to the length, curve, or tapering of a stock. The long stock has two advantages; there is less danger of injury should the barrel burst, and the flash of the priming is at greater distance from the eyes. A piece should be well balanced by sufficient weight at the shoulder, but should the butt be overloaded, the weight will be fatiguing. The RAMROD is usually furnished with a screw or worm, similar to that of the cork-screw, having a brass cap, and it is most effective in drawing any kind of wadding.

**POWDER AND SHOT.** It is cheapest to buy

gunpowder of the best quality, which may be had at the upper shops of almost any town ; and safest not to keep too large a quantity in the house. Being laid in, dry, and preserved in a proper tin magazine, securely placed in a dry closet or drawer, under lock and key, it will seldom or never need drying by the fire, or be subject to accident. Should it be necessary to dry powder, the safest mode is in a dish placed over boiling water, entirely at a distance from the fire ; indeed the rule ought to be held sacred, never to bring gunpowder within reach of fire or candle. As to *Shot*, the gunner may indifferently, and with perhaps equal effect, make use of the common, the patent, or the unglazed ; or may, if he pleases, oil his shot, with the expectation, well grounded or otherwise, of preventing the barrel from being *leaded*. The size of shot is indicated by the following terms, *mould*—A—BB—B—No. 1 to 9. Of the two extremes—mould shot average at about sixteen to the ounce ; No 9, at 970. The first, to No. 1, are calculated for the largest fowls : A and No. 1 particularly, for shore shooting. No. 7, or that mixed with larger shot, are fittest for general use. No. 2 and 4 for shooting through thick wood. No. 9 are next to dust shot.

The transparent black *Brandon Flints* are superior to all others, and of such, plenty should be

provided. The flint should be fixed with the flat side upwards, screwed in with leather, and should stand sufficiently clear of the hammer. Those who are particular, stamp their leathers with a punch, changing them as often as their flints. The flint is made to strike higher or lower, by the mode of screwing it in, and by using thicker leather when the former is required.

The best WADDING is made of Leather-cutters' roundings and old hat; pasteboard is also used, but brown paper most commonly. The larger the calibre, or bore of the barrel, the thicker should be the wadding. The cap of the ram-rod should be broad enough to prevent the wad from turning in the barrel. Wadding is fitted for the bore in use, by *punching* upon a block of hard wood.

In the TRIAL of a Gun for purchase, the barrel should be first detached from the stock and examined internally to detect any crack, flaw, or chink, which may harbour impurities, and be ultimately dangerous. The lock and furniture being found satisfactory, the piece should then be tried by firing it ten or a dozen times, at a mark, with various sized shot at different distances. A quire of the thickest brown paper is the best mark, a fresh sheet being placed in front, and another behind it, for every shot. A good piece should carry the shot sufficiently round and close, without scattering or dropping, to the distance of

sixty yards; which defects may be most plainly discovered by shooting over water.

The RECOIL or kick of a good piece will be smart, but ought not be too heavy or alarming. A too heavy shock may be occasioned by defective formation of the barrel or breech, or from the stock being straight. It will also result from an improper or unequal charge, too hard ramming, or foulness. Holding the gun too loosely to the shoulder necessarily increases the effect of the shock. The most common causes of that fatal accident, BURSTING of the barrel, are, in the first place—bad materials, or insufficient substance; also, foulness with an old charge, over charging, a quantity of earth or snow entering the barrel, in the passage over irregular ways, or a vacuum being left between powder and shot. A gun being fired, with its muzzle thrust an inch or two into water, will burst; a caution to be observed by those who shoot fish. Lord Coleraine, a veteran and experienced judge of fire-arms, tells us, in his book—"If one barrel weighs only three pounds and a half, and another four pounds and a half, the latter will carry a larger charge, shoot stronger, and, having more resistance from its superior weight, will not strike the shoulder more than the lighter barrel with a smaller charge."

His Lordship farther says—"Now the ELEVATION RIBS, so much in fashion, they undoubtedly

elevate the gun, by which you throw the centre of the shot to a greater distance ; but if a Sportsman will have his gun stocked straight, when first made, this will have the same effect as the elevation rib, and he will save three or four guineas expense."

LOADING. The charge in general, is one third more of shot than of powder, by the measure used ; or a *stricken* measure of powder and a *bumper* of shot ; but most wild fowl shooters, who fire at great distances, charge with equal quantities of powder and shot. Too heavy charges only increase the recoil. To kill at the greatest possible distance, the best method is to increase the size of the shot, the whole charge not exceeding the regular quantity. The most convenient size, a gun of two feet eight inches length of barrel, and of a fifteen *guage* in the calibre, weighing about five pounds three quarters, to six pounds, will carry two drams and a half of powder, and two ounces one quarter of shot : the same sized double barrels may be loaded, each with two drams of powder, and one ounce and a half of shot. This proportion may be doubled for a twelve pound gun, *trippled* for one of eighteen pounds, and *quadrupled* for one of twenty-four : the heavier and longer the barrel, the greater care necessary, *not to increase the quantity of shot.* CHARGERS of steel and horn are in common use.

In CHARGING the piece, neither the powder

nor shot should be rammed hard, but merely pressed into a round and close body, on which the waddings should sit just tight enough to hold them in that position, and to prevent an inter-mixture of the powder and shot. The chief result of hard ramming, is a heavy and shaking recoil. The wadding must be well fitted to the bore of the piece, or it may turn and let out the charge, the state of which indeed, and of the priming, should always be examined after much shaking of the gun. In loading, gunners always prime first, unless the piece be known to prime itself. With an old battered lock, which may strike at half cock, a breach of this rule may be eligible.

To CLEAN THE GUN. No gun should be fired more than a score times, without cleaning, not only on account of the danger, but the inconvenience of hanging or missing fire. In the field every opportunity should be taken, of wiping the barrel, having been often fired, and the pan, for which purpose a piece of cloth is more proper than tow, the use of which may accidentally be dangerous. The rule is, to load whilst the barrel is yet warm from the last discharge, and before the vapour becomes condensed and moist upon the surface, to which then, the powder necessarily adheres. Perhaps soap and water, at a scalding heat, is the best scouring for the barrel, after it has been detached from the stock; or fine sand may be used, the operation to be finished with a

rincing of cold water. One end of the IRON CLEANING rod, is furnished with scrapers. The muzzle and touch-hole should be stopped, whilst the water is shaken up and down: in conclusion, the water to be passed repeatedly through those. Look into the muzzle, with the touch-hole held towards the light: rub the barrel thoroughly dry, inside and out. The outside of the barrel and the lock may be rubbed with trotter oil, or neat's foot oil well clarified; but dry rubbing is of the greatest use, and oil should always be well rubbed off, within twelve hours, or it will produce rust. It is most safe, never to lay by a fowling piece, charged, but rubbed dry, barrel, lock, and pan, and the touch-hole cleared; and if the piece be left naked, both the muzzle and touch-hole should be stopped.

The Lock also and all its parts, must be thoroughly cleaned from impurities, oiled, and some hours afterwards, rubbed thoroughly dry. When needful, it must be unscrewed, with the proper tools, and taken to pieces, in order to a thorough internal cleansing. After thaws and damp weather, arms should be examined and the cases dried. For CARRIAGE of the gun, in a long journey, a *sail-cloth case*, and an additional one of *oil skin*, are recommended, or a TRAVELLING GUN Box, in which two or three guns may lie at length, like instruments in a Surgeon's case. The COPPER POWDER FLASK and SHOT BELT are the preferable articles in those respects.

## October.

### Sporting Engagements.

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#### SHOOTING,

As Last Month.

PHEASANT; COCK AND  
SNIPE.

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#### HUNTING.

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#### COURSING.

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#### FISHING,

As Last Month, see Table.

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#### RACING.

AT NEWMARKET, FIRST  
MEETING, WREXHAM,

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CARLISLE, EDINBURGH,  
CALEDONIAN HUNT,  
MONMOUTH, HOLY-  
WELL HUNT, RICH-  
MOND, ABERDEEN, KIN-  
CARDINE, FORFAR, AND  
BANFF, NEWMARKET,  
SECOND MEETING, NOR-  
THALLERTON, CUPAR  
(FIFE), KELSO, PEN-  
RITH, NEWMARKET,  
THIRD OR HOUGHTON  
MEETING, STAFFORD,  
TARPOSLEY HUNT.

THE rage for partridge-shooting is now somewhat abated; Pheasant shooting commences with the first of this Month, and Snipe and Wood-Cock shooting now have their turn. Hunting and Coursing begin also to be pursued with a regularity which is to go through the season. This month, which abounds in Racing Meetings,

concludes that sport for the year. *Angling* draws near to a conclusion for the season, but may yet be pursued with success, should the weather prove favourable. In shooting, it should be recollected that in this early season the young pheasants are weak, and it is difficult to distinguish the cock from the hen, which latter it has been always an object to preserve. *Grouse* shooting goes on, throughout this month, with activity; and the gunner who wishes to improve his hand at a quick shot, pursues the hare and rabbit. In short, October is a busy month, abounding in much variety of sports.

**SHOOTING DRESS.** This includes defence from cold and from external accidents, whether in dangerous ways, or from venomous reptiles. As *lower attire*, perhaps none can be more generally convenient, than *half-boots* which lace close, with a good substantial sole not too heavy, *and trowsers or overalls*, strongly defended within-side by leathers, and thorn-proof. The sole and leather of the boots should be varnished and rendered water proof, although it may be necessary to observe, that some persons have either found, or supposed, an inconvenience from the varnished leather being rendered so compact as to retain and condense the perspiration of the feet and lower limbs. The **SHOOTING JACKET AND WAISTCOAT**, in the early and warm season, may be made of

*jean, satin, or nankeen, afterwards of fustian or velveteeen, with a sufficiency of flannel, as a defence against the rheumatism. A POCKET on the left side, for wadding and small articles, with a large HABPOCKET, are necessary; and the latter should either be lined with oil-skin, which may be sprung, or have a thick lining which will wash.* The Sportsman should, in the field, be provided with a small hammer, screw-driver, and every little necessary portable tool, without forgetting a copper wire fastened to one of his buttons, always at hand, to clear the touch hole. His charge for the stomach he will not probably forget twice. The SHOOTING PONEY should be perfectly steady, full master of the weight to be carried, safe, and a good standing leaper.

**USE OF THE GUN.** In the attempt to acquire the art of shooting, the first step is to get the better of that trepidation at the discharge, to which learners in general must be subject. This indispensable qualification can be obtained only by constant use, which, in time, will render the drawing a trigger matter of perfect indifference. The AIM is next to be considered, and will be best acquired by firing at a dead mark, and taking sparrows for the learner's game, which indeed, both in their covey and flight, resemble the partridge. The swallow tribe, both from motives of kindness and profit, as well as the robin and the

wren, should be sacred from the attacks of the gun. The piece agreeable to the feelings of the Sportsman, with respect to length of the barrel, and curve or straightness of the stock, being held firmly to the shoulder, should be grasped with the left hand upon the stock, near to the guard, and almost upon a level with the right hand. This mode must certainly be some degrees more safe, in case the barrel should burst, than the old one, according to which, the left hand grasped the middle of the barrel; a matter of necessity, in fact, with the long and heavy pieces of former days. The modern direction is to take the aim with both eyes open, but many old shooters dispute the propriety of such practice, and insist that, the most correct aim may be taken with the single eye, and in consequence, always close the left. Some learners indeed refine upon this, and close both. The gunner's art, then, simply consists in establishing by habit, such a concert between the finger and the eye, that the former shall pull the trigger at the *very instant* the latter has found the level; that is to say, taken the aim. The point of the gun, or sight, in a right line from the mark upon the breech, should be levelled point blank with the object of aim. The exceptions to this rule arise from the expedience of taking the aim higher or lower, before or behind the mark, either from the particular quality or defects

of the Gun, or the object shot at, being on the wing or running.

PARTTRIDGE SHOOTING generally first engages the attention of the young Sportsman. A single staunch dog, *pointer* or *setter*, or a brace at most, will be sufficient for a couple of gunners; and one of them knowing the country, to procure good sport. Circumspection and coolness are the qualifications necessary to be acquired, the anxious suspense in finding, having considerable effect on the mind of a junior, and the flutter occasioned by the rising of the birds, giving a similar shock to that experienced on first discharging the gun. The dogs pointing, and the birds being sprung, let the novice *mark his bird*, which may be allowed to advance from fifteen to twenty, or even thirty yards, from its springing, when the piece may be instantaneously cocked and shouldered, and the discharge will be in time to reach the mark, at thirty-five to fifty paces distance, beyond which, it is seldom worth while to discharge a gun in field shooting. In shooting flying at a distance of forty yards, it is generally proper to take the aim, full a hand's breadth before the bird; and from that to a foot or more at a long shot, the bird being rapidly on the wing: as in cross shots, flying or running, it is necessary to level some inches before the head of the object,

allowing for its degree of speed. It is an inviolable sporting rule, to take the aim at a particular bird, and not to fire indiscriminately into a covey ; and also to *kill clean*, avoiding uncertain and long shots, which seldom have any better results than throwing away powder and shot, and cruelly wounding and uselessly wasting game. Aim at the head of a *hare or rabbit*, running before you, or that which is the same thing, shoot high enough. In cross and snap shots, the gun must move with the object, and the first moment of fair mark be seized without hesitation, which is fatal, since there can seldom be more than one chance. Appropriate allowance must be made for the course the object takes ; for example, it is necessary to shoot somewhat before the game running or flying across, and somewhat above the bird rising.

The POSITION of the Shooter, in immediate expectation of springing the game, should be nearly, but not quite upright, the knees being held in a flexible state. The left leg to be considerably advanced in the direction of the game, the foot in a line with the thigh ; the right foot to be turned outwards, to nearly a right angle, with the other ; at the same time the feet should not be too wide apart, a common fault with gunners. The young Sportsman should always en-

deavour to be cool enough to allow his game fair trigger law, and not fire at such a short distance as to blow it to atoms.

The DOUBLE BARRELED GUN, under skilful management, is calculated to do great execution, and when necessary, both barrels may be discharged, without lowering the piece from the shoulder, excepting when the wind is towards the shooter, it may be necessary to lower the gun momentarily and present again. Double barrels yet require additional care, both with respect to their solidity and the goodness of the locks, and the use of them in the field. Each lock, in course, must be depended on to remain firm, although upon the cock, and unaffected by the discharge from the other barrel. All double barrels throw the shot somewhat *inwards* at long distances, whence it is proper to chuse the right barrel for an object moving to the left, and the contrary; and generally, in beating along a hedge-row, it is proper to make use of the barrel on the hedge side. When various guns are used, it is a great convenience to have all the LOCKS AND TRIGGERS as nearly as possible on a similar construction, otherwise the Sportsman may be embarrassed in their use, whilst taking his aim. There is seldom or never the necessity for such haste, as cocking both guns, which may lead to danger in case of forgetfulness. One

barrel remaining loaded, it is a necessary caution, when instant firing is not required, to examine with the ramrod the state of the remaining charge, and whether the shot may not have been moved or lost by the shock. There is said to be a danger of the barrel bursting, should a vacuum be made between the wadding and the shot. This is perhaps an inconvenience to which the double gun is liable, and should be obviated by substantial and careful wadding.

SHOOTING Dogs are distinguished as the *Pointer*, *Setter*, great and small *Spaniel* for land or water, and the *Newfoundland Dog*. The *setter* is long-flewed, originally a spaniel taught to set, or mark the game, as well as find it. This breed has been, during a long time, mutually intermixed with that of the *pointer*, and their qualifications and use are, on the whole, similar. The *setter* however, is rather long in form, and lower in stature, than the *pointer*; with tail, quarters, and legs feathered; in colour, generally sheeted with brown, or liver colour and white. This dog is active, hardy and spirited, fit for a long day, and fearing no ground wet or dry, nor the thickest covers, his feet being narrow, hard, and well defended by hair. The *setter* has always been of high estimation and price.

The *POINTER*, the name of which bespeaks his grand qualification of pointing out the game to the

Sportsman, is supposed to have been first brought to this country from Spain, and has been here highly improved in form and speed. The native Spaniard has perhaps the finest nose, but is too slow for our present style of Sporting, and is inform, a coarse headed and heavy animal. The improved Pointer of the present times, has originated in a cross between the Spanish Pointer and the lighter English Fox-hound, and sometimes the Setter; but it is generally said that, a cross with the slow Southern hound produces the finest nosed, and steadiest Pointers. This dog is too well known to need description; the liver-brown, and white mixed, are favourites, with respect to colour, which however, is of small importance, granting the dog be well bred, of good form and size, without excess in the latter, his own weight, in that case, being apt to tire him. Pointers have been sold from ten, to one or two hundred pounds each, and are well worth breeding to the Sportsman.

The SPANIEL is one of our most ancient and best known breeds of the dog, his business immemorially having been that of *finding and bringing of game when killed to his master*, whether by land or by water. Land spaniels, of which there are several varieties, are known by the fineness of their flew, and their general delicacy and symmetry, more particularly visible in the head

and ear. The water spaniel is not equal in these respects, and his coat is more harsh and thick. There are useful and useless varieties of this species, the latter being chiefly delicate house dogs, admired for their fond attachment to the human race. A spaniel to be of real use in the field, should be by no means high upon the legs, and have sufficient substance in the loin and depth of carcase. The only noticeable varieties of the Spaniel at present, are the *great*, or *Springing*, and the *small*, among which are the *Cocking Spaniels*; and the black-mouthed variety, distinguished as King Charles's breed. Very few comparatively, of this once-famous breed remain, and although good in the field, as far as their delicacy will allow, they are far better adapted to the carpet. Spaniels are used as *babblers* where noise is wanted; to hunt coverts and thickets, and in coursing to find hare and rabbit; but they are much less used, on any occasion, than in former days. The large NEWFOUNDLAND Dog has been introduced into the field, by some few persons, with success, for the purpose of fetching and carrying game, in which he is equally useful, by land or water.

**The SCENT.** The *olfactory* power in the dog, or keen sense of smelling, has undoubtedly been bestowed upon that animal, by nature, to enable him to discover his prey; and some, the blood-

hound, for example, have the faculty of catching and pursuing a distinct scent, although intermixed with many others. The *scent*, or *odorous vapour*, issuing from the bodies of game animals, in the open air, is necessarily affected by various atmospheric contingencies, on which the success of the Sportsman depends. In a hard frost, the scent is quite locked up from the nose of the dog, or by heavy rains; nor does it lie well in chilling or parching winds. Mild, dry, or slightly moist weather, are most favourable to the sporting dog. Land covered with vegetation is, by consequence, more retentive of scent than the naked and fallow.

The *Terms of Number* will be found in page 34, and the following are the chief of the *technical* phrases of the field, in present occasional use.—The *Stag* is said to be *harboured*—the *Buck*, *lodged*. The *Stag* or *Buck*, roused, are *emprimed*. Marks imprinted by the Feet of *Deer* of any kind, the *View*, or *Slot*. The Tail of *Deer*, the *Single*; Excrement, the *Furpet* or *Fumishings*. The *Fox-hound challenges* (with the voice). The *Harrier* *calls*; in trying back after a *fault*, he *traverses*. *Spaniels* *quest*, *tongue*, *babble*, *whinnick*. *Setters* and *Pointers* *open* or *vick*. Tired *Hounds* are *overhauled*. *Pointers*, *Spaniels*, and *Terriers*, *jaded* or *floored*. The Game, *Fox* or *Hare*, being beaten, and their death at hand, the Hounds hush

and run mute; the point of time at which all those but the best mounted, are thrown out, for want of their guide, the *Cry*. The *Fox* is kennelled (earthed), or on the *Pad*; his *Ball* (foot-mark)—*Brush*; *Ordure*; the *Billot*. The *Wild Boar* (at rest) couched; his *Ordure*, the *Cesses*; his Tail, the *Wreath*. The *Otter*, vented or watched; his Foot-print, the *Seal*; *Ordure*, the *Suage*; his Tail, the *Eel*, *Potter*, or *Pole*. The *Hare* on Form or formed; her *Pricks* (foot-prints); *Buttons*, (excrements; Tail, the *Scut*. The *Badger*, earthed; *Ordure*; the *Riants*; Tail, the *Stump*, *Chape*, or *White Tip*. The *Squirrel*, at *Dray*; Tail, the *Brush*; *Ordure*, *Croteys*. The *Rabbit*, set; *Ordure*, *Buttons* or *Croteys*; Tail, the *Scut*. The *Marten Cat*, tree-ed; *Ordure*, the *Spraints*; Tail, the *Brush*. *Pole Cats* and *Stoats*; Tail, the *Drag*.



## November.

## Sporting Engagements.

SHOOTING, COURSING, &amp;c.

As last Month.  
WILD FOWL, RABBIT.

FISHING,

See Table.

HUNTING. COURSING MEETINGS.

WITH this month the proper Winter Diversions may be said to commence, and those of Summer to end. *Racing* and *Angling* are now taken leave of, until the ensuing spring reintroduce their inviting routine. *Shooting* is now more diversified, and the hardy gunner is making preparation, with his long gun and heavy charge, to brave the wintry blast, by day or night, upon the shore, in pursuit of *Wild Fowl*. The *Woodcock* and *Snipe* still more divide the Sportsman's attention, with the *Partridge* and *Pheasant*. The trees have become quite destitute of foliage, and the pheasant loses the facility of concealing himself from view. The covers are bare, except of thorns and briars, and those sportsmen who are attached to cover-shooting now bring out their

well-trained *spaniels*, which resolutely thread the thickest brake, leaving no accessible path or spot of field, wood, or plain, unexplored ; the music of their tongues, in the mean while, affording equal delight to the *amateur*, as that of the pack, to the staunch fox-hunter. The use of a well broke *spaniel*, both in finding and bringing in wounded game, is undoubted. By this time every species of field game has been so thoroughly disturbed, as to require the utmost skill and energy of the sportsman, and the use of his most killing piece : foxes also run with great resolution, trusting less to the cover.

BREEDING. / The male and female of the canine genus will procreate in their first year, but a valuable sporting bitch should be reserved until full two years of age, the intermediate time being spent in her education and labour, from which the subsequent period of her breeding and suckling may prove a respite. The period of gestation in the bitch is sixty odd days. The terms of her heat, when not intended to be put to the dog, should be strictly passed under lock and key, and all the silly and hurtful tricks of servants, in this case, as strictly forbidden. A little nitre in her water will have a good effect, during her confinement, which affords also a good opportunity for a dose or two of calomel, or other medicine, should any be required. Spring is the natural breeding season,

and experience has always declared in favour of Spring puppies. The bitch must not be worked too late in her pregnancy, and should be well fed, more particularly when she suckles; the whelps should also be fed from the dairy and kitchen, as soon as they will lap or eat. It is a most profitless thing, to preserve any whelp which are undersized, imperfect, or defective in promise. At four months old, they change their puppy, for their adult teeth, which remain for life. The tips of the tails of *Hound* puppies should be early twisted off with the fingers, and the *daw claws* cut off with a sharp pair of scissars, before they are a week old.

The age of the dog is discoverable chiefly from general appearances. At about four years old, the front teeth lose their points, each of them presenting a flattened surface, which increases as age advances: the teeth also become less white and more uneven. The front teeth suffer earlier than the others, and are often broken out whilst the animal is young, in dogs fed much on bones, or accustomed to fetch and carry. At seven or eight, the hair about the eyes becomes slightly grey; gradually, similar tints extend over the face. From ten to twelve years of age, the dog generally breaks fast, his eyes lose their lustre and become dim; and seventeen years in the dog, may be compared to seventy of the human

race. There are rare instances of the dog surviving to his twenty-fourth year. The spaniel is deemed the longest, and the terrier the shortest lived of the canine race.

As to IMPROVEMENT in the breeding of dogs, its objects are either the establishment of new *Varieties* adapted to particular purposes, or the farther advancement in excellence of form and qualification, of those already established. As a general rule, the dog should not be too far advanced beyond the middle age, and both male and female; at least of the middle size, and of the best form of their species, to be procured; and indeed of the best character, if that can be ascertained, out of respect to the well-known breeding maxim, *like produces like*. Every Sportsman will be aware of the necessity, that both dog and bitch be thoroughbred of their kind; and in order to improve form in the expected progeny, defects on one side should be countervailed by superior shape on the other; for example, suppose the bitch too loose and weak in the loins, the dog with which she is matched, should have extent and substance in those parts; and with respect to mental qualities, such expression being allowable, a bitch of a too eager and fiery spirit, should be matched with a dog of the opposite disposition, and *vice versa*. As to crossing breeds, if from varieties merely, such practice may be rational in its ends,

and profitable; for instance, the crossing of one gentleman's pointers or fox-hounds, with those of another, living in a different part of the country, or varying from his own in certain particular points; but the crossing of different species, for example, the spaniel and pointer, or bulldog and greyhound, from mere caprice, and on no well deliberated ground of theory, is silly and childish in the extreme. The bitch should receive the male two or three times, in the interim being closely confined until her heat is past.

**BREAKING DOGS.** The breaker or teacher of the dog, or any other animal, should be chosen for his patience and mildness of disposition, and to be complete in his business and trust-worthy, should be at least of the middle age, as boys, actuated by passion and caprice, too commonly do irreparable mischiefs in this line. The SPANIEL requires the least training of any other hunting dog; a truth, however, which is often trespassed upon, by the allowance of too little. Being truly bred; he will instinctively quest, find, and give notice of game, and it remains to the breaker to discipline him, and to regulate his natural qualifications. In the first place, to follow, and be under command, with respect to obeying the Sportsman's call, and keeping within his due distance of twenty or thirty yards; to confine his attention to his proper game, and to seek and

bring in the dead or wounded, with the least injury to it, and if possible without breaking feather. Some spaniels are naturally tender-mouthed, others can scarcely by any means be rendered so; and it is perhaps easier entirely to restrict such from this duty, than to perfect them in it.

Dogs may be brought into the field, at from eight to twelve months old, and one of the most important points in their education is to break them thoroughly, from such objects of pursuit as *sheep* and *domestic poultry*.

BREAKING, the *Pointer* or *Setter*. The young dog having been accustomed to follow, and to use a passable degree of obedience, at large, may be taken to a convenient and quiet place in his CHECK-COLLAR, to which should be attached, some twenty yards of line, and be very securely pegged down. The *breaker* must be provided with a WHIP and with a bag of some eatable, with which to reward his pupil according to desert—reward, caresses and kindness, alternatory with necessary punishment, being the hinges on which instruction must turn. The lessons to be taught should be as few, simple, and comprehensive as possible, and conveyed in plain terms at the discretion of the breaker, or according to existing custom. The following phrases are in general use—TAKE HEED! TOH! DOWN! to stop or crouch down—DOWN CHARGE! BACK! COME HERE! DEAD! HEY ON!

• **GO SEEK! HOLD UP!** applied to nosing the ground too close in the field. **WARE!** a caution against any object named, as **WARE HORSE!**

Manuel application is necessary, in the first instance, to direct the dog, as to the positions or motions which he is required to assume; afterwards the successful breaker will only have to stand and give the word distinctly, and in a pleasing tone for every separate act. The first punishment for disobedience should be in shew only, with the crack of the whip; and its first actual application extremely moderate; and it should never be forgotten that, an animal may be often torpid and sullen from mere affright, which is too usually mistaken for determined obstinacy; and cruelly punished to no useful purpose. Instead of harsh and stupifying treatment, time, patience, and kindness are the only remedies. A gun or pistol, and a head or two of dead game, partridge and pheasant, should be at hand, as of obvious use. The puppy must be inured to the report of the gun and the smell of powder, as well as regaled with the scent of game, that he may not blink, shy, or skulk in the field. He must be now, if ever, made tender-mouthed. The example of a staunch old dog should be frequently exhibited to the young, which must also be taught to obey the whistle, as well as the voice. Two or three puppies in cheek, may be pegged down, one before

the other, and so taught to back each other, when taken into the field together; but it is generally preferred to enter a young dog singly. The best bred dogs point naturally. Their drillings should continue once a day during a month or nearly, but never continued too long at one time, so as to fatigue and disgust; in the interim, pleasing excursions in the field.

"There is no one thing," says Mr. Dobson, in his curious and practical Treatise, "which makes such a distinction in the scale of merit between one dog and another, as the sagacious expenditure of his powers in hunting to find, or an unmeaning, undirected ramble over a country, for the chance of standing at game, when he happens to stumble on it. Thence the consequence of teaching a dog to quarter, or range over his ground truly, or with exact regularity, the rarest and most valuable accomplishment in a Pointer. The following is a diagram, or chart of a dog's course, in quartering the field, being a beat to windward, with a breeze from the north. Its meaning is sufficiently obvious, without the references, too long for insertion; exhibiting a field thoroughly quartered, or beaten, in the true style of a Sportsman, and no part of it left untried!"

COLLARS, CLOGS, puzzle-pegs, and other devices, old and new, to check or punish the riotous, and stubborn, are perhaps too well known, in propor-

tion to their real use. A well bred and well managed dog has seldom any need of them, and those of the opposite description, as seldom improved by their use. *Nosing*, or hunting too near the ground, is often natural in the pointer, in consequence of too often repeated crosses of the hound. If there be any remedy in this case, it must come from instruction and gentle means, and an attempt to fix the meaning of *hold up* in the memory of the animal: measures of force and infliction will be full as likely to defeat, as forward the desired end.

RATING, or *scalding* dogs, should be performed with a loud voice and stern countenance. For great vices and faults, the whip must be used, with a severity which will leave due impression on the memory of the animal, and prevent the necessity of repetition. But let no man attempt to punish a large and powerful dog, until he is securely staked down. Least of all should the infamy be suffered, in servants, of cruelly whipping and beating dogs on slight or no pretences, and for errors the mere result of a want of understanding the lesson given. Common sense decides that an animal ought to understand at the moment, the reason why he is corrected. There is great nicety of skill required in the management of all sporting dogs. Strict discipline and constant exercise are indispensable, or the best dogs

will become riotous, forgetful of their business, or lazy ; at the same time the exercise must not be laborious, and must have a mixture of pleasure and attraction in it.

A cross, and ill bred pointer is thus described by Mr. Mayer, an Essex Game Keeper,—" *for-muz-zled—small-eyed—bat-eared—fan-eared—short-necked—head set on like a pick-axe—broad withers—round shoulders—elbows out—small legs—feet out, or cut-footed—thick balls—round barrel—round croup—clumsy steln—set on low—sickle hammed.*"

TERMS OF NUMBER, as applied to SPORTING DOGS and GAME. NUMBER of HOUNDS, BEAGLES, and HARRIERS, *a couple, a couple and a half, a pack.* Of SPANIELS, SETTERS, POINTERS, GREY-HOUNDS, TERRIERS—*a brace, a leash, or three, several brace of Spaniels, a pack.* In some counties—*a couple of Spaniels.*

GAME.—*A brace or a brace and a half of PARTRIDGES, or BIRDS; a dovey. A brace of PHEASANTS, a leash of PHEASANTS, a ni or nide (covey) of PHEASANTS. A couple, a couple and a half of SNIPES, a wisp of SNIPES. A flight of Wood-cocks. A brace, a brace and a half of QUAIL, a betvy of QUAIL. A brace, a pack of GROUSE, or BLACK GAME. A flock or gaggle of WILD GEESE. Flock or team of WILD DUCK. A wing of PLOVER. A trip of DOTTEREL. A shoal of COOTS.*

There is also a long list of Sporting PHRASES

to be found in books; the majority of which have been long since out of use; the remainder, (for the chief of which see page 29) also varies in different parts of the country, will be very readily met with and acquired in practice.

In the FIELD, a single active and staunch dog, game being in reasonable plenty, will shew good sport for one gunner. A brace of pointers, or setters, with or without spaniels, are a handsome sufficiency. Strange dogs should not be thrown off together, but relieve each other in turn. Strange shooting parties meeting should accommodate each other in a fair sportsmanlike way, either by joining, or agreeing upon separate routes. Junior sportsmen in company, should first be mindful of the dangers from carelessness, and next of the established rules of good breeding of the field; which last materially consists in restraining those violent impulses, by which one gentleman is driven to cross another, in order to obtain the first shot. Every sportsman should wait for his own bird, rising on his own side, if rising singly. A bird flushed between two gunners, may be fairly shot at by both; or the sharp shot by one, not killing, the long shot by the other. At a covey, every shooter should mark his bird, and watch its fall. Never flank the covey, or fire into the midst of them, without aim; it is not the act of a sportsman; and the same may be

said of rival shooting among strangers, which is the endeavour to cross and interfere with the sport of each other.

The PARTRIDGE, or BIRD, so styled by way of eminence, consists of two or three varieties in this country—the native grey, the red-legged from the Continent, and some mixtures with various colours, occasionally, but rarely, milk white. The red-legged are the largest, sometimes perching on trees, whereas the grey never light but on the ground. Partridges are found in corn, turnip-fields, and hedge-rows. They are easily domesticated, and the breed might be propagated to any extent. The partridge breeds in June, and the young birds fly within the same month. Woodlands fresh broken up, abounding with ants' eggs, and clovers, are the favourite haunts of this bird; and as the season advances, fallows and the turnips which remain; rough furzy heaths, meadows with the shelter of old grass, and full of mole-casts and underwoods, or spots abounding with broom or fern.

Early in the morning, birds do not generally lie well, or wait for the point, but fly off in coveys; nor can they often be divided. The forenoon and afternoon are very seasonable for field shooting, affording, in warm weather, an hours' leisure at mid-day, for refreshment of the sportsman and his dogs. As the season advances,

and the birds become strong and shy, it is usual for the shooter to take down his best piece, and to decrease, in some degree, the number of shot. In a close country, and when birds have been much driven and frightened, and lie almost to being trodden upon, a cry of noisy spaniels will have their use. These may be detached, a convenient method to those who dislike the trouble of them, and sent forward with a keeper to hunt turnips and other known haunts.

In throwing off young dogs, it is necessary to give them the wind, which they will afterwards instinctively keep, in quartering their ground. As much as possible should be done with shooting dogs, by signal with the hand; and although when staunch and under command, they may be allowed an extensive range, all should be kept, if possible, within sight, and young ones ever within hearing. Dog and Gun have now become the fair and gentlemanly means of sporting; netting, snaring, and all the field trickery of former days, being confined to *poachers*, which spurious race of sportsmen can only be eradicated by the total abolition of the absurd and tyrannical GAME Laws, those relics of former slavery; and by the lawfully suffering game to be what it really is, SALEABLE PRIVATE PROPERTY.

The distance from the theatre of action being a considerable number of miles, the *Dog Cart*,

of late years in constant use, should by no means be forgotten ; for field labour, earnestly persisted in, is full enough for the strongest constitutioned dog, without the addition of an hour or two's travel over the road, to shake him and lower the tone of his spirit, and abate his eagerness for the sport before he reaches the field. And with regard to dogs in general, it is proper to note a thoughtless abuse in many persons, not all of them boys, who cannot make shift to travel without a dog at their horse's heels, generally some following favourite, or hearth-rug chum, without exercise, yet occasionally and cruelly compelled to follow a horse, after the rate probably of eight or ten miles per hour, over a wet and heavy road, his tongue lolling from his mouth, and his tail loaded and draggling, with all the symptoms of distress.



## December.

### *Sporting Engagements.*

SHOOTING, As last Month. <b>FIELDFARE ; REDWING.</b>	COURSING. COURSING MEETINGS.
HUNTING.	FISHING.

GROUSE Shooting ends on the 16th of this Month. The *Fieldfare* and *Redwing* now come forth as minor objects of sporting attention, having their share of consequence, in the light of variety and diversion. *Teal* and *Widgeon* are now found in great numbers, in the marshes and fens; and *Plover* afford good sport upon commons, and sometimes on fresh-ploughed lands. The earliest hatched young *Duck* and *Mallard* are by this time in the finest condition. *Fox Hunting* is getting to the height of its glory, whilst the weather remains open; the bare covers and fences present less difficulty to the bold and eager leaper, and the horses and hounds are now in high perfection of exercise, without being exhausted, or their spirits damped, as towards the

end of the season. As Christmas approaches, *Coursing* and *Coursing Meetings* divide the palm with Fox Hunting. *Angling* has ceased as a sport, excepting with those to whom it is an object to fish for the table; in the same view, the ponds and stews, not overstocked, should be carefully attended, and the fish well fed. The *Net* must now be chiefly depended on for supply. On the setting in of frost, it is of consequence that air-holes in the ice be made in time, or many of the fish may have already perished.

Of the *PHEASANT*, we have perhaps half a dozen *varieties*, distinguished by the beauties of their plumage; of these, the *golden* are the highest priced. They are the product of foreign stock, imported from different countries, and intermixed with our indigenous breed, which is of the largest size, most hardy, but of inferior plumage, with respect to brilliancy and variety of colours. There are breeders of pheasants in London, in the way of trade, who rear several hundreds in a season, for the supply of sportsmen. Furze-seeds sown in hedge-rows, are the best coverts for pheasants. They lie upon corn and stubbles as long as any remain, and in the nearest covert, or hedge-rows, to be seen at feeding times, morning and evening. Pheasants naturally belonging to the party of the meritorious and patriotic SIR THOMAS BARNARD, are great

lovers of SALT, and attached to the sea-shore and marsh land, where they can find cover sufficiently near. They harbour also much in clumps of aquatics, growing on springy and boggy soils, on which the willow and alder make good pheasant covers, as furze and broom upon dry wastes. Their food in winter consists of berries, insects, and reptiles; and, like the carrion crow, the pheasant, both carnivorous and granivorous, will make a meal upon any dead carcase; and, like the hawk, will tear in pieces and devour alive the smaller birds. They roost, in the winter season, upon the middle branches of the oak. Pheasants are much attached to the neighbourhood in which they have been bred, and where well fed, are extremely prolific; the case indeed with game of all kinds. Every shooter knows the old rule, to spare the hen pheasants, and keep under the number of cocks.

In an open country, pointers only can be wanted for pheasant shooting; but in wood shooting, the purest bred and strongest spaniels are best adapted; such as are not afraid to thread the thickest coverts, "shagged with horrid thorn." The sportsman must not be too late in the morning, since, the leaves remaining, the game generally lies too high to be readily sprung; and he must also be aware, that in the woods, old pheasants, as well as red-legged partridges, will

run until they are actually coursed by the dogs, no doubt instinctively apprehensive of the gun, should they spring. Hence the use of well disciplined spaniels. The pheasant preserved would probably live to twenty years of age.

**GROUSE SHOOTING.** The varieties of this species of game are, the COCK of the WOOD or CAPER-CALZE, or WOOD GROUSE; the BLACK GROUSE or BLACK COCK, commonly called BLACK GAME or Moorcock; and the white Grouse or Ptarmigan. The cock of the wood, weighing fifteen pounds and upwards, has been, like the bustard, suffered to become nearly extinct in this country, and the recovery of the breed of both, certainly merits the consideration of Sportsmen and Economists. Grouse are easily domesticated. The black grouse may be compared to the pheasant, for its size and perching on trees, and weighs three or four pounds. The red grouse and ptarmigan are rather to be classed with the partridge, but are somewhat larger; the red are most plentiful. All the grouse are more or less brown fleshed, and of a high game flavour, soon reaching the stage of putrefaction. If drawn at all, it cannot be done too soon, and they should be stuffed with heather; some pack them undrawn. Being wetted or torn, they should be wiped dry before they are bagged, and again perfectly dried at a distance from the fire, previously to packing. They may be packed

for carriage, either in sealed bullock's bladders, or in partition boxes, with hops or heather, one bird, or at most two, in a partition.

Shooting of Moor Game commences early in August, and is, next to shore or wild-fowl shooting, the most adventurous and laborious of diversions with the gun, from the hilly and uneven surface of the moory wilderness, where the rough and tangled heather conceals stones, cavities, and obstructions of all kinds. Danger from accident with the gun, is in course, greatest on the moors, from the risk of false steps and falling, whence the necessity of redoubled caution in carrying the gun cocked, more especially in company. If a SHOOTING HORSE be used, he must be accustomed to the country, and to descend hills safely.

The Scotch and Welsh mountains and moors, are the chief quarters for grouse shooting. Red grouse are yet also in good plenty, in the moorlands of *Derbyshire*, *Lancashire*, *Cumberland*, and *Yorkshire*; *Staffordshire* being their boundary southward. Some yet remain in the *New Forest*, *Dorset*, *Wilts*, *Hants*, and *Sussex*, on *Ashdown Forest*. A hardy, active, deep-flewed *Setter*, is the dog for Moor Shooting, and half a day, in hot weather, is full labour enough for the stoutest dog, a relay of such being necessary on occasion. The shooter's clothing in the early season should

be the lightest possible, with good defence for the feet and legs ; good provision also, of *internals*, will not be twice neglected, and the sportsman ought to be upon his guard against the danger of drinking cold water during heat and perspiration. Time of the day, from eight in the morning until evening ; afterwards, as the season advances, from about nine until two o'clock, is the only time of the day in which grouse will lie. As many dogs as will hunt steadily together, may be taken to find ; but after the game is found and marked, one staunch dog is sufficient. Late in the season, large shot, and the largest guns are required. Grouse will run a considerable length, and with two or more shooters, it is usual for part to drive, and part to make an extensive circle, to head and stop the game. The old cock is generally the first object of aim ; he being killed, the pack will lie until ready to be trodden upon.

**Cock and SNIPE SHOOTING.** The Woodcock, with its long bill and head enveloped in feathers, is a bird of passage, found in nearly all climates, chiefly in the mild and moist : its food, worms and insects ; ordinary weight from ten ounces to a pound. They arrive here from the frozen regions of the north, on the setting in of the frost there, earlier or later, in the Autumn, as the wind may favour their passage. They are usually preceded by the RED WINGS in their arrival, and

a north-east wind continuing several days at Old Michaelmas, will bring vast flights of both upon our coasts. Supplies continue to arrive until December. Early in the spring, the woodcocks, again preceded by the redwings, assemble on the coasts, in order to take advantage of a fair wind to those northern regions, where being indigenous they pass the breeding season. This interval is the resident Sportsman's best opportunity throughout the season. Some pairs may accidentally remain and breed in this country. They pipe a little in the spring, at pairing time ; at every other time are silent ; and are the fattest and best for the table, from December to the middle of February. The vicinity of *Torrington*, in *Devonshire*, is famous for the great plenty of woodcocks and snipes. Woodcocks may be bred up tame, if caught young, being fed on worms and strings of lean beef for artificial worms.

Woodcocks, most abundant near the sea coast, yet traverse the whole country, and harbour in coverts near springs, and where the upper staple of the soil produces worms. Their creeps in the early part of the season are in hedge-rows and clumps of trees, in soft heath, on the margins of ponds, and in springy bottoms; afterwards in young wood and the skirts of woods. Good questing spaniels or setters, are the proper dogs for cock shooting, and fine noses are particularly required

where the birds are scarce. The cock is not easily flushed, concealing himself under stubs, or any cover, or running : when marked, allowance must be made for the probability of his running considerably wide. Woodcocks rise heavily, flapping their wings, and skim leisurely along the ground, presenting a fair mark, and if missed, they seldom fly far. When flushed among high trees, they rise above the height of the trees, before they are able to take their usual horizontal flight ; in consequence, the difficulty of getting a shot is enhanced, as the aim must be caught through the branches of the trees, whether in the ascent of the bird, or afterwards. Markers provided with poles to beat the covers, are useful in cock-shooting, and when the cocks are flushed, they seldom fly far, but land in some ditch or fence, near at hand.

SNIPE and COCK SHOOTING are congenial sports. The *Snipe* is found in almost all countries and climates. The varieties are, the *common*, the *Jack Snipe*, and the *Great Snipe*. The two former weigh each about three or four ounces, the latter half a pound, but it is not often seen in this country. They are generally full of fat, grateful to the stomach, and are like the woodcock, cooked with their entrails. Snipe Shooting is a good trial of the gunner's skill, who often engages in this diversion, without the assistance

of a dog of any kind ; a steady pointer, however, is a good companion. Snipes, in the winter season, frequent low and moist grounds and rushy bottoms ; in the summer, they resort to hilly and moorland districts. They breed here in considerable numbers, but the greater part migrate like the woodcock. The manœuvres of the cock snipe, in breeding time, have always interested the curious sportsman and naturalist. When flushed, he rapidly ascends to a vast height, making a *bleating* noise, and after poising himself on his wings, in the air, he falls with equal rapidity, whistling and making a drumming noise, either with his voice, or by the flapping of his wings. The Snipe in his flight makes a number of zigzag evolutions, at a certain distance from the place where he is flushed : a shot should be *snapped* off, if possible, before those evolutions are begun. If the bird rise close to the gun, let the marksman wait, granting the distance not too great, until it has finished its *tours*, and fire not the instant it aims at a steady flight, or take it whilst describing its zigzag. At a cross shot, fire well forward. In frosts, look for snipes in bottoms not frozen.

The *Quail*, or *Dwarf Partridge*, is a bird of passage of the fighting species, seldom seen in some parts of this country, but found in vast

multitudes in others, particularly the New Forest, Hants, and its vicinity.

The *Corn Crake*, *Land* or *Water Rail*, or *Daker Hen*, a great dainty and excessive fat: birds of passage; a few in most parts of England, particularly the maritime; hatched in June. *Larks* and *Stares*, or *Starlings*, need no description. *Wood Pigeons*, or *Ring Doves*, which formerly, like locusts, devoured the land, are nowhere upon this island, at present, beyond a moderate plenty. They must be watched in their haunts, and in turnips, tares, and peas. *Tame Pigeons*, divided into an infinite number of varieties, of which the *Runt* and *Dragon* are among the largest and best for the table, are generally sold when old, or too numerous, for the purpose of being shot at, in pigeon matches; a cruel diversion with creatures which have been kept in a state of domestication, and which at any age, if in good condition, make an excellent stew. A large dragon, roasted and stuffed with sage and onion, with good gravy, makes a handsome apology for a duck. *Rook SHOOTING* is also a cruel diversion; since, although at large, they are in part domesticated, under our protection, and extremely attached to their home. The service they do to the land which feeds us, in the destruction of insects, is incalculable, and

infinitely beyond any mischief within their power, great part of which beside may be avoided by due care. In fact, whatever they eat they earn, and they well deserve pay like other labourers. Their young should be taken like the young of the domesticated pigeon, and in order to thin a rookery, measures should be taken which may disturb, as little as possible, those which are to remain. For the substantial excellence of a Rook Pye, the present writer can vouch. The *Wheat Ear* arrives in this country in March, and quits it in September. They frequent heaths and downs, chiefly in Sussex; are about the size of a sparrow, and are reckoned a great delicacy. Thirteen dozen of them have been killed at one discharge with dust shot.

Of the *Bustard*, we have distinguished but two varieties, in this country, the *great* and the *little*. Upon some parts of the continent, particularly in *Hungary*, they are very numerous, and formerly they were in considerable numbers in Britain; at present they are seldom seen here, nor is it known whether they breed in this country, or migrate hither. The great bustard is the largest of our fowl, partaking considerably of the nature and figure of the ostrich. Cocks have been found to weigh thirty, hens twenty pounds. The back is barred black and of a bright rust colour; the belly white. The tail

consists of twenty feathers. The legs are long and naked above the knee. These fowls inhabit downs and extensive plains, and if to be found any where in England, at this time, Salisbury Plain is the most likely place to seek them. They feed on corn and vegetables; and, like other gallinaceous fowls, on insects, worms, and reptiles; like the ostrich, swallowing stones and metallic substances, by way of digestives. They also run like the ostrich, and are, according to report, so slow to take flight, as to be coursed with greyhounds; they are nevertheless described as extremely shy and difficult of approach to the gunner; in course, they require larger shot. Hawks were in former days flown at the bustard; its flesh equals that of the turkey in delicacy.



## January.

### *Sporting Engagements.*

SAME AS LAST MONTH.

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SHOULD the weather prove open, the same variety of sport is pursued as during last Month ; but at this season, the frost may set in, putting a temporary impediment to all but the diversion of the gun. Whilst the severe weather lasts, and the snow lies upon the ground, Sportsmen should agree to be favourable to the partridge and pheasant, in districts where those species of game do not superabound ; at the same time, taking care that their keepers regularly feed the pheasants in particular, scattering peas and horse-beans in their known haunts. The gunner's attention may be directed, at the same time, to wild fowl shooting, woodcock, snipe, and rabbit. During this vacation, the huntsman and his attendants in the kennel, must not be idle, but repair every error or irregularity which may have occurred in the preceding busy months ; giving the dogs and horses daily walking exercise, the weather permitting, and not failing to have the pack in the highest order, and ready for cover on the first opportunity which may present.

SUMMER, OR FEN SHOOTING. This is practised in *Lincoln*, *Rutland*, and *Cambridgeshire*, and other counties abounding in watery and reedy tracts of land. For this sport two guns are necessary ; a long and a short barrel, and a pair of water proof boots. The game chiefly as follows—*Dotterel*, weighing three or four ounces, a great delicacy. *Plover*, the golden and grey, dressed with their trail like the woodcock. The *Pewit*, or *Lapwing*. *Red Shank*, or *Pool Snipe*. The *Water Hen* weighs from twelve to fifteen ounces, always good meat, particularly so in Autumn. *Moor Hens*, *Dab Chicks*, found in mires and pieces of water. The *Ruff* and *Reeve*, male and female, birds of passage which are caught with nets, in order to be fattened on bread and milk, hemp seed, or boiled wheat with sugar. The ruff weighs nearly half, the reeve a quarter of a pound, and when fat, are held to be one of the chief dainties of the table. The ruffs are great fighters, not only in couples, but in large flocks. The *Knot* and *Godwit* are taken in the same manner, the latter somewhat larger than the woodcock. The *Bittern* is a large bird, of late years, regaining its ancient reputation, the flesh resembling that of the hare, but judged by modern taste far superior. Price at the London poulters, from ten to fifteen shillings. This is a bird of high courage, and being

wounded, will in turn attack with its bill and claws, the person attempting to catch it.

WILD FOWL SHOOTING is a winter sport upon the sea coasts and marshes, rivers and pieces of water, where the fowl resort for food or shelter during severe frost. The most valuable fowl are—*Duck* and *Mallard*. *Dun-Birds*, *Easterling*, *Widgeon*, and *Teal*. *Wild Geese*, *Coots*, *Curlews*, and various other water fowl, are considered of little or no worth for food: perhaps the *coot* ought to form an exception, making, in reality, a good dish, and disregarded chiefly from its excessive plenty. The severities and dangers of shore shooting by night, during the rigours of the winter season, are such as few Sportsman choose to undergo. The day time is the season of *diversion*, but that can only be had, to any great degree, in severe frosts, and when fowl of every description, are in flight throughout the whole day, and the shooter, traversing the marshes, or taking to his boat, can scarcely fail of a number of successful shots, the flocks and strings of all kinds of wild fowl, from the goose and heron, to the oxbird, being immensely numerous on many parts of our coasts. In general, the night sport commences at *flight time*, or soon after twilight; and the weather being fine; it may be continued pleasantly enough until eleven o'clock.. Should there be no moon,

the successful gunner must shoot by *ear*, an additional skill to be acquired by practice. His game being invisible, he must direct his aim to the noise of their wings, of their voice, and to other well-known signals.

The warmest CLOTHING is especially necessary in this kind of shooting, whether by night or by day; in order to abate as much as possible, of the almost unavoidable penalty of rheumatism. WATER-proof boots are indispensable, beneath which, double woollen stockings, reaching up to the middle, will be found necessary. A fur cap is preferable to a hat, and less alarming to the fowl. The shore or duck GUN must be of as great length and weight of metal, as the gunner can manage, with the size of shot and method of charge already directed. The roughest and hardiest WATER-SPANIEL is the proper dog for the shore, and his only business is to bring in the fowl shot. These dogs, enduring great hardships, require warm and particularly dry lodging on their return home, many of them being destroyed for want of care, so justly their due. Those who shoot wild fowl for profit, provide themselves with a forked stake, or bumper, on which, being driven into the earth, they rest the long and heavy gun when they fire. But for diversion, a four foot barrel, of considerable weight and bore, may be sufficient, and with large shot, will do execution at the distance of one hundred yards and upwards.

In sleety or snowy weather, which is generally favourable to the gunner, the new water-proof locks must be of signal use, granting they really answer the warranty of them; though a tolerable shift is made by holding the gun under the jacket or coat skirts, through oil-cased hand-holes. The shooter will take his stand under the marsh wall, or in some proper concealment, shifting it as necessary; or will take to his *flat* or *punt*, in which to pass along the *creeks*, and by silence and caution, endeavour to get within reach of the fowl, at their feeding places; or lie in wait for them as they fly over. A great gun may be fired upon a staunchion in the punt, with especial care, however, that the boat be not overloaded and upset. It is necessary to shoot *before* the fowls in their flight, from two to nearly four feet by guess, according to circumstances.

Wild fowl are taken in *Decoy Ponds*, which are generally made near the sea, or on the marshes of some great river. They should be well sheltered by wood and thickly skirted with reeds. In these ponds, decoy ducks are kept and well fed, which always return home after flight, bringing wild ones with them. The fowl rest there throughout the day; and there are covered channels, into which they are driven and caught.



## HUNTING & COURSING.

THE present objects of pursuit in this Country, with respect to the above sports, are—the *Fox*, the *Hare* and *Rabbit*, the *Fallow Deer*, the *Stag*, the *Roe-buck*, the *Otter*, the *Badger*, with other *Vermin* of the various species. The Dogs appropriate by nature and use to *Hunting*, are the *Hound*, with his Varieties, adapted to the *Fox*, *Hare*, *Buck*, or *Stag*; the *Greyhound*, the *Blood-hound*, *Beagle*, and *Lurcher*, with *Terriers* and *Spaniels* as finders.

The *HOUND* is a native of the European Continent; the species being divided into the *Northern* and *Southern*, the latter being the largest, stoutest, or most lasting, and the slowest. These were either indigenous, or imported into this country

at a very early period, of which perhaps no record now exists. Hunting was also pursued in Britain at the earliest periods of the monarchy, on a grand and princely scale, by the Kings, great Barons, and opulent Landholders; the WILD BOAR and WOLF making an important part of the Chase. The above divisions of the Hound existed separately in different parts of England, several centuries since; and the breeds being occasionally mixed, or crossed, a medium-sized variety was produced, possessing more activity than the large Southern Hound, but not so fine a nose. Of this latter kind are our present Fox-Hounds, rendered still lighter, somewhat taller, and more symmetrical and speedy, by additional crosses with the Greyhound. The old TALBOT, a name long since out of use, was probably a good specimen of the heavy Continental Southern Hound. The following is his description in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, who, according to the fashion of the times, took delight in field sports: "A large, heavy, and slow hound, black, and black-tanned, liver-coloured, or milk white, with a round, thick head, short nose, uprising at the extremity; large, open nostrils, ears excessive large and thin, hanging much below his chops, the flews of his upper lips almost two inches lower than his nether jaw, indicating a merry, deep mouth and a loud ringer; back strong and

straight, and rather rising, shewing toughness and endurance ; fillets broad and thick, enabling him to gather up his legs quickly, and without pain ; his huckle bones round and hidden, shewing he will not tire ; thighs round and hams straight ; tail long and rush-grown, or big at the setting on, and tapering ; the hair under his belly hard and wiry, a proof of hardness ; his legs large, boney, and lean ; foot round ; high knuckled and well clawed ; with a dry, hard soal ; the general composition of his body so just and even, that no level may distinguish whether his fore or hinder parts be the higher : lastly, this hound has the most powerful scent, and delights most in blood, with a natural inclination to hunt *dry foot.*" The *Bloodhound* may well class with the above, being merely a hound of the largest size, trained to the scent of human blood ; consequently, the breed cannot be extinct whilst large hounds are kept, although few individual bloodhounds at present remain in Britain, their use in pursuing human delinquents being long since laid aside.

The same old writer thus describes the *LIGHT*, or *NORTHERN HOUND* : " A head more slender, with a longer nose ; ears and flews more shallow, back broad, belly gaunt, joints long, tail small, and his general form more slender and greyhound-like. But the virtues of these Yorkshire hounds

I can praise no farther than for scent and swiftness; for with respect to mouth, they have only a little shrill sweetness, but no depth of tone, or solemn music." The *Stag-Hounds* of the present day are the largest and slowest. *Beagles*, *Dwarf Hounds* and *Harriers*, or *Hare Hounds*, which will also hunt the fox, are merely hound crosses with reduced size, but probably with no alien variety, excepting the little *Beagle*, which has been described so small, as to be carried in a man's glove. These have been hunted out of curiosity, and have a fine scent and great cunning, but have not speed or strength enough to catch and kill their game. The *Terrier* is probably a mixed breed between the dwarf-hound, the cur, and fox: he is a right vermin dog, taking to earth readily. The *Greyhound* or *Courser*, the swiftest of the canine *genus*, is indigenous to Greece and the Eastern countries, where also the Race Horse is a native. The *Lurcher*, a breed some time since on the decline, is a mongrel between the greyhound and shepherd's dog; or the smaller, mongrel mastiff. He is chiefly the poacher's dog, and will catch up hares in an inclosed country; some of this breed will run long and well.

In the establishment of a Pack of Hounds in former days, great care was taken in the equal assortment of their size, colour, the music of

their tongues, and their running fairly and evenly together, without disjointment or straggling. They aimed at mixing “*deepness of cry* with the *loud clang ing roar*, and the *shrill whine*.” They added to five or six couple of “*base mouths*, not more than two couple of *counter tenors*, as many of *mean voice*, and an equal number of *roarers*.” Some, however, preferring the deep and solemn cry, and most exquisite powers of scent, kept entire packs of the heavy, deep-flued Southern hounds; yet speedy hounds were then, as now, most in fashion; and we find, that two hundred and fifty years ago, they hunted with such swift hounds, that running horses were very commonly used in the field. The case is similar, in a remarkable degree, in the present times, and no hunters can be too high bred and speedy for our crack packs of fox-hounds; and it seems to have been an object to improve the speed of our hounds of every description. The highest performance upon record is that of Colonel Thornton’s *Merkin*, a fox-hound bitch, which ran a trial of four miles in seven minutes and half a second, and was afterwards, in 1795, sold for four hogsheads of claret, the seller to be entitled to two couple of her whelps.

**February.*****Sporting Engagements.***

**FIRST DAY, PARTRIDGE  
& PHEASANT SHOOT-  
ING END. — OTHER  
SHOOTING AS IN THE  
PREVIOUS MONTHS.**

**HUNTING,  
FOX AND HARE, AND**

**COURSING,  
END WITH THIS MONTH.**

**FISHING,  
FOR TROUT, PIKE,  
PERCH, &c.**

ON the *First Day* of this Month *Pheasant* and *Partridge* Shooting cease. *Fox* and *Hare* Hunting should also be discontinued by the end of *February*, as the breeding season with both immediately commences, and few persons choose to eat hare in March. It is now time for both hounds and horses to rest from their labours, and to enjoy some months of respite and comfort to recruit their constitutions, renovate their strained sinews, and fit them for the duties of another season. Business now increases in the *racing stables*, and those horses intended for the early meetings, are getting forward into high training. The dili-

gent Angler, who has regretted the interruption of winter to his favourite sport, begins with eagerness to look over his tackle, and to put it into the best state of repair, for the commencement of his campaign, just at hand. The weather being favourable, Angling may be pursued towards the end of this month, with considerable success : *Roach* Fishing, indeed, is in season. Trout will take the ground bait, but are as yet lean, and scarcely worth taking.

Dogs, indeed all the domestic animals, should be lodged dry, well sheltered and warm in the winter season, particularly with respect to defence against those sudden atmospheric variations, to which our climate is so liable, and with convenience for ventilation at all seasons. A *Kennel* for *Hounds* should be erected within reasonable distance, but not too near, the mansion house, and if possible, upon an elevated, at any rate dry situation. Instead of an Eastern, perhaps a Western and Southern aspect is to be preferred. The doors and windows should be aptly contrived for the purpose of ventilation, but so posited as to avoid partial currents of damp and cold air, against which the hardiest of our domestic animals cannot stand with safety. The divisions, or rooms of the kennel must be sufficient in number for the draughting off, or separation of hounds for the next day's hunt ; or of the sick, hurt, or

weakly, which require nursing ; of the bitches in heat, or of young or strange dogs. The floors should all be laid with bricks or clinkers, a descent on each side to the centre, forming a channel, or gutter, to carry off the water, none of which ought to be stagnant for an instant, but the pavement mopped completely dry. The convenience of water must be had through leaden pipes. Stagnant moisture, left for any length of time, will assuredly produce catarrhal affections in the heads of the hounds, and rheumatism in their limbs and joints ; the former affecting their olfactory nerves and powers on the scent, which effect is also occasioned by the inhaling of fetid and improper effluvia.

*Seats or Benches*, hinged to the wall, which may be folded out of the way, with hooks, are a very ancient convenience for hounds to rest upon, and sanctioned by present use. The dog introduced into the dwelling-house, will generally prefer a chair to the floor. To complete the kennel, several *courts*, or *yards*, are requisite ; for example, the *grass court*, for the benefit of the dogs, and to preserve their health. The *feeding court*, paved, and covered in, containing the *boiling-house* and *store-houses* ; the whole building should be amply fenced with a wall or lofty paling.

The aspect being such as to secure the presence

of the sun, to as late a period of the day as possible, the dogs should always be suffered to bask therein, which is particularly delightful to them; shelter from its burning rays, during the hot season, not being forgotten. For this purpose, it is proper to plant trees around the grass court, with, perhaps, a clump in the centre; and were these planted upon an artificial mount, on the declivities of which the dogs might lie, and enjoy themselves in the sun, it would probably be an improvement. The two chief courts should be as spacious as the site will possibly allow. *Urining-posts* are very necessary, to which the dogs will be at first attracted by straw, rubbed with *galbanum*, laid around the bottom; and both the dung and urine of dogs being a powerful manure, they are worth preserving. A *gallows*, at the back of the buildings, thatched above, and the posts defended to prevent the ascent of vermin, serves to hold the flesh intended for the hounds; and if a run of water could be turned through the grass court, it would be extremely convenient and salubrious for the hounds. Our ancient kennels were provided with one or two spacious chimnies, where, in the rigorous season, after a hard day's hunt, their wearied hounds might stretch, clean, and dry themselves for an hour or two, by a good fire, before they retired for the night,

THE ATTENDANTS OF THE KENNEL WITH ITS ECONOMY AND MANAGEMENT.—A *Huntsman* and one or two *Whippers-in*, according to the size of the Pack, and an occasional or constant *Feeder*, are the usual attendants. The Huntsman should be a person of experience, in the active part of life, and if he has first served as a Whipper-in, it ought to be the best recommendation. As a Hunting Establishment of whatever extent, must be attended with a considerable expense, it is absolutely necessary that a Huntsman be capable of keeping clear and intelligible accounts ; and also a regular account of all the material transactions of the Establishment, in a *Kennel Book*, of sufficient size, and with divisions conveniently arranged for the names and pedigrees of the hounds—date when littered—purchase or parting with them, their state of health, different qualities, together with all circumstances worthy of record, which may occur in the Chase.

The *Duties of the Kennel* are generally as follow. The feeder enters at a certain regular hour in the morning, according to the season, and first of all turns out the hounds, which are well and at large, into the open court, in order that they may empty and prepare themselves for breakfast. The hounds must not however be turned out, if the weather be foul, but only removed to some sheltered place. In the mean time

the weather being fine, all the doors and windows should be thrown open, and the kennel rendered perfectly clean, in which state every room and court thereof, ought be kept; with the *walls and ceilings* regularly and substantially *white washed*, and occasional *fumigation* used, to neutralize any predominant offensive smell.

The *Breakfast* should be prepared, and forthcoming by the time the kennel is finished, into which the hounds may retire to digest their meat, unless the sereness of the weather renders the open air desirable. Two men are required to feed between twenty and forty couple of hounds, in which, either the huntsman or whipper-in may make one; it is a business, indeed, in which the huntsman should be frequently found. A punctual regularity ought to be observed, as to time of feeding, which *should* never be later than *seven or eight o'clock* of a summer's, nor *nine* of a winter's, morning.

The food of Dogs generally consists of *flesh, farinaceous substances, roots, and vegetables*; and as in human food, a mixture of these is most salubrious and nourishing to the dog. Oat is far preferable to barley meal, and fine pollard perhaps superior to oat: the largest and most mealy sorts of potatoes agree well with hounds, as part of their food. Hounds do not indeed require so large a portion of flesh meat in the summer, or

leisure season, but a certain quantity is still necessary; as also, in that season, a reduced quantity of straw for their bed. The heaviest and best oats are the cheapest to make into meal for the use of dogs, and the meal should not be given new, but, being ground into rather coarse grits, should be firmly trodden into bins, or sugar hogsheads, placed upon stands, and well covered. A year's consumption should be so stored. A cast-iron Cauldron is in common use. The flesh is first cooked and taken up, when the meat is put into the soup and boiled an hour or nearly, making, when cool, a fine, thick, and rich jelly, and forming the strongest nourishment for hounds. Poor horses purchased for slaughter should be put into good keep, which will greatly enhance their value to the pack. The feeders must be furnished with whips, in order to the strictest discipline, that the weak may not be driven from their food by the strong. Indeed, weak and slow-feeding dogs should be fed by themselves, and invalid hounds recover most speedily, by being suffered to run at large. The proprietor himself should strictly guard against all cruelty in the management and correction of his hounds; and particular care should be taken to withdraw and separate bitches on the commencement of their heat, and those particular hounds, against which the others may have con-

ceived an antipathy. Hounds may be well fed the day before hunting, since there will be plenty of time for perfect digestion and emptying themselves, before they arrive at cover and commence action. On their return from hunting, an ample and hot repast of the richest food should be prepared for them, with comfortable beds of fresh and sweet straw; and, as soon as possible, the feet of those which appear to be wounded should be carefully searched for thorns or stubs, and the proper curative measures taken, a principal of which is to wash the claws with warm butter and beer; beef broth, a water in which mallows and nettles have been boiled soft and tender. The favourite soup for sickly hounds has long been made of sheep's head with the wool on, and trotters, bruised in pieces; boiled with oatmeal and pennyroyal, and given as warm as possible. Onions are recommended also.

*Summer* is the season of vacation and improvement in the kennel. The young hounds go out in couples, to be exercised and disciplined. In this season, although there is no labour, hounds ought to be kept well, as preparatory to the labour which is to come. To keep their bodies within due bounds in respect to flesh, exercise is necessary, and a very useful branch of it is a swim and continuance of some length in a river, once a week at least, to which, if they have to

accompany the horses ten or a dozen miles, it will be most beneficial and promotive of their condition. In case of Mange or Surfeit, *sulphur* and *antimony* are the proper remedies, continued for several weeks; but cleanliness and care, with vegetables boiled in the food, and plenty of dog grass, are sufficient preventives. Some of the hounds may require two or three *aloetic purges*, in order to prepare them on the approach of the hunting season.

The pack of hounds must generally be purchased in the first instance, but may be kept up afterwards by breeding. It is necessary that they be all furnished with names, to which they will answer, and for which in any numbers no person need be at a loss; from *lounger* to *rattle*—from *giant* to *tiny*—and from *Sal* to *Bob*. All young hounds should be branded on the side with the initials of the proprietors' names. From the bitch, they are usually put out to the walk, or keep, until old enough for the kennel. Their ears may be rounded at six months, if free from the distemper, and in cool weather. Dogs and bitches, not wanted, or judged unfit for breeding, may be preferably castrated and spaded.

Always couple dog and bitch together, if practicable, and the young, which are awkward and troublesome, may be coupled with old hounds, and that carefully, lest they slip collar and stray

away. The first lesson abroad to be taught the young dog, is to follow, whether a foot or horseman; the subsequent are chiefly the following—*to run in company, without skirting or skulking; to be strictly obedient to the voice of the huntsman; to beware of hunting improper objects; to be staunch to that particular scent, to which they are about to be entered; and to run one or two trail scents, or trials, for the satisfaction of the proprietor.* Young hounds must be led amongst those animals which they are to be taught to avoid; *Sheep*, in the first place, from which all dogs must be carefully warned—“*'ware sheep*”—and most severely corrected for every trespass, death being the only remedy for the incorrigible. Young Fox Hounds must also be warned against *deer* and *hare*, the latter bearing a scent the most sweet and enticing to all hounds. Fox hounds must be first stooped to a rank or *vermin* scent, such as that of the various wild cats, badger, and fox, to which the dogs will then acquire an attachment, which will be confirmed by discipline. An artificial, or trail scent, may be made with a bunch of red herrings, or with a cat killed and spread open; either of those to be dragged over the land intended for the trail. In order to perfect the young hounds, they should be exercised in company with two or three couple of the staunchest and best-nosed line

hunting hounds of the pack. In due time, the young pack should be gradually entered, a few couples at a time, in that part of the country where it is intended they should hunt through the season, and be blooded to their proper game; if to the Fox, cubs must be found for them in the covers, or bagged ones provided. The hounds should be inured early to the strongest and thickest covers, where the martin cat and other vermin may be found.

The HUNTING HORSE. The hunter for general modern use, should be at least three parts, or even seven-eighths *bred*. In light land, open counties, and where *crack* fox hounds are kept, having nearly the speed of greyhounds, it is much the custom to ride full bred, or race horses, against which there can be no objection, when they can be obtained sufficiently short-legged, and masters of their weight, with sound feet. In general, the hunter should be upwards of fifteen, and below sixteen hands high, short-legged, deep in the girth, wide and substantial in the loins and fillets, throw in his haunches well in action, and go perfectly clear of all his legs, so as not to touch a hair. He should have a good snaffle bridle mouth, yet ride light in hand. No four year old horse should be hunted, otherwise than by way of exercise and training; and even at five years old, the first season, a horse should be used

in the field, with great moderation. At six and seven, he is in his prime, and from that period, to twelve or fourteen, he may remain capital, improving in knowledge, and delight in his business, every year, under the care of a humane and skilful master. The Hunter, like the Racer, is entitled to the highest and most experienced degree of stable care ; to the finest and heaviest corn, the sweetest hay, and to roots and green meat in their season.



**March.****Sporting Engagements.****SHOOTING.**

WOODCOCKS, SNIPES,  
WILD FOWL, &c.

**HUNTING THE DEER.****FISHING.**

THE month of March presents few objects to the notice of the Sportsman. Our regulated field sports are nearly all at an end ; game, both of the earth and the air, are then called by nature to the increase of their species, which ought to be encouraged, not disturbed by the Sportaman ; and the fields are covered with young and growing crops too valuable to be damaged for diversion's sake. Hunting the *Deer* in open countries now succeeds the fox chase, continuing in some few parts of the country, throughout the spring and summer. The Angler begins to find himself in his element, and both *ground* and *surface*, or *fly-fishing*, come into general practice. The *salmon*, *trout*, *grayling*, *tench*, *roach*, *dace*, &c. are sought in the rivers, and the pond fish, *carp* and, *tench*, towards the end of the month, will afford the angler his usual sport.

TRAINING the young Hunter commences with teaching him to leap the *Bar*, to which he should be brought by the most gentle usage, and encouraged by the example of a good standing leaper. The young horse should not be urged to great heights at the bar, high leaping being better acquired in the field, and with respect to flying leaps, they come by nature and practice, He will require two or three *Aloetic Purges*, and as many months walking and galloping exercise, to put him in proper condition for the chase. For seasoned hunters, taken from spring grass, very moderate gallops will suffice, with more walking exercise, in order to favour their limbs, which may have suffered from work. A light *Sheet* is sufficient clothing for the hunter, and the chief of his exercise, at the rate of a good hunting gallop, should be given in the cool of the morning, with a gentle canter after water in the afternoon. A hardy constitutioned horse, which gets too fleshy in exercise, may, if necessary, have a good sharp rally, weekly, to the length of about two miles, giving him two or three pulls, or holds back in the run. This will clear and strengthen his wind, and the flesh he may appear to carry will be no detriment to him. All grooms know the use of the *Malt-Mash*, for a horse that comes home fatigued from hunting after a hard run; and also of the *Cordial Balls*, which however,

given to excess, injure the appetites, and too much loosen the bodies of horses. Perhaps the regular use of cold, or warm water, as each may be required, will furnish the best substitute for stoppings of all kinds, for the feet ; the horse always resting his heated and tender feet upon clean, cool, and dry staaw.

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## COURSING & HUNTING THE HARE.

The pursuit of the *Hare* in both these modes, has been a favourite object of field sports, from a very high antiquity. The *Greyhound* used for *coursing* the hare, was generally entered to his game, at the age of twelve to eighteen months, but the period is now somewhat earlier. The lightest whelps of this kind, and those with most length and bone, are generally most esteemed, and the bitch is supposed to be endowed by nature, with the greatest speed. Black and blue, or the mixture of these, are the present fashionable colours, and a fine skin, with soft, thin hair, are deemed marks of the highest blood in a greyhound. This dog has been proved to have nearly equal speed with the *Race Horse*, and is likewise usually purged and trained for the course. Good feeding and regular

common exercise however, is fully sufficient for ordinary occasions, although the former may be necessary for public matches and great coursing meetings. Colonel Thornton, and Major Topham, are among the first fashionable and successful breeders of Greyhounds, in the present day. The chief points of form in the Greyhound, are depth of breast, width and substance in the loins, length and fullness in the gaskins and fore arms, clean and sinewy substance and bone, with straightness in the legs, and even position of the feet.

Of the *Hare*, our varieties arise merely from difference in the nature of the soil, on which they are bred. Thus we have *field*, and *woodland*, *hill*, *down*, and *marsh* hares. Those accustomed to an open and extensive country, will consequently run longest, and those of the marsh and fen are the largest in size. It is probable from the variety of colours seen in each, that the hare and rabbit intercopulate, and that the cross breed is continued. The hare lives from seven or eight, to twelve years old and upwards, and is very prolific, costing the country much for keep, in corn, roots, and vegetables, and doing considerable damage to the bark of young trees, and to flowering shrubs. The age of the hare is discovered by the toughness of the under-jaw bone, which, in a young animal, is tender and easily

broken. The carcase will be stiff, and the flesh of a pale colour, when the hare has not been long killed; if loose and the flesh blackish, the hare is stale.

In fair COURSING, a brace of greyhounds only, it is said, should be slipped to a hare, which is besides, entitled to some distance, as law. Yet some stout running hares have often baffled, and finally escaped a leash of the best dogs in the country. The hare being found by the spaniels or finders, the first maxim is for the director of the sport, so to dispose of his forces, as to baffle her attempts to turn, and compel her to a straight course, that as long a run and view as possible may be obtained. Coursing in an inclosed country is often little else than running small circles, the hare aiming by a circuitous course, to return to her form, which she seldom quits by day-light, unless disturbed, ranging at night for food, and returning through the same *meuses* or paths. The laws of the leash of coursing, handed down from antiquity, and adapted to modern practice, are in every one's hands; and it is said, the greyhounds are now loosed from slips of a better construction than formerly in use, that it is impossible for any dog to have the least advantage given him at starting.

For *Hare Hunting*, the *Harriers*, or *Hare Hounds*, are usually a breed of the hound re-

duced in size, sometimes by a cross of the beagle. Middle-sized hounds, with a good musical note, and adapted to the country in which they are to hunt, are the most suitable for the purpose. Twenty couple form a full pack of harriers, which had better be less in number, than more numerous. Hares always perceive the approach of bad weather, and seat themselves with the view of shelter; and their forms in inclosed lands, being generally near, or under the lee of the fence, or in those parts of the field which afford covert, it is seldom worth while to beat for them in the naked field. They will also lie on their form until nearly trodden upon, their colour very much favouring concealment. *Stillness and silence* after finding, are the leading maxims in hare hunting. When the hare is headed back, either by her doubling, or the scent being overrun by the speed of the dogs, it is preferable to keep a considerable distance behind, and to leave them to recover the scent by their own efforts, which good staunch hounds will generally do. The less they are hallooed the better, as hounds are so often confused by excess of that kind. The hare must be patiently hunted through all her doubles, in which consists the fair sport of hare hunting and coursing. Every step she takes should be followed, nor should the hounds be cast but in the last resort. The hare, among her numerous

doubles and shifts, will sometimes take to a piece of dry ground, or to the high road, where the scent is uncertain, and then leave it with a leap, passing over a space of ground, scarcely to be credited, by which manœuvre her trail is lost to the dogs. Or in a bad scenting day, in cover, the hare, as well as the fox, as one of their stratagems, will actually trace and hunt the hounds, trying every possible resource, until hard pressed by alarm, and in despair, she breaks cover and trusts to her speed.

Hares always run best, and shew most sport, when out of their knowledge, and if they start down wind, seldom return, and then is the time to halloo and push the hounds. Hounds being at a *check*, whether in hare or fox hunting, the huntsman should pull his horse up, and remain perfectly still and silent, but with his eyes and mind in full action, in order to render any assistance in his power; but, as was said above, the hounds must be generally left to themselves, to recover their fault. Every man, ambitious of the character of a sportsman, should be cautious not to ride over the hounds, but to speak to them *in time*—'ware horse!—and in roads and paths, a man should be careful to stop his horse, and make way for the hounds, and should never, if to be avoided, ride in the line of the tail hounds. Harriers should occasionally have blood for their

encouragement. Hares may be raised in prodigious plenty in a dry and well-sheltered Hare Warren. It should be well planted with all those shrubs, in which hares delight, such as *Acacia*, *Citrus*, and *Spanish broom*; and amply stocked with *Lucerne*, *Parsley*, and *Rutaboga*, which will not only improve the stock to a great size, but prevent their straying into the neighbourhood. No dog should be suffered on the warren; and weasels, stoats, and all vermin, should be trapped, and carefully extirpated. The hares also may be trapped in the common method. Trapped or boxed hares, from a warren, generally run straight, as being out of their knowledge. They leave a strong scent, and hunt much like the fox. In course, hare hunting ceases early in March.

. The RABBIT, too well known to need description, is sometimes coursed by way of change, or when accidentally found at any distance from earth; but the chief sport in taking it is with the *ferret*. Ferreting is performed by covering the mouths of the rabbit burrows with *purse nets*. A sufficient number of attendants must be conveniently placed, to seize the netted rabbits as fast as they are caught. The ferrets, or cats, as they are styled, must be *coped*, that is muzzled, or they will stay to feast upon the blood of the rabbits, instead of merely starting them, and they have usually bells fastened around their necks,

that they may not be lost. The man who earths the cat, should keep on the windward side of the burrow, as a general rule; for if the alarm without be too great, the game will rather remain to be torn in pieces than bolt. The instant a rabbit is netted, the person next to the burrow must throw himself upon it, and kill it as speedily, and with as little noise as possible. Where the game is very plentiful, and wants thinning, the sport is excellent, and will keep the men at warm work to catch and kill; otherwise, and where nothing is done but watching the nets in their place, and hunting after the lost ferrets, no pastime can be more stupid and uninviting.

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## FOX HUNTING.

THE *Varieties* of the Fox in this country, as of the Hare, arise chiefly from the difference of size and the nature of the soil on which they are bred. The largest are found in mountainous, open, and wild countries, taking thence the name of the *greyhound* and *mastiff* fox, the former of which is said to be the tallest and boldest. These will attack and destroy the heath sheep and lambs, and doubtless, were they numerous, would, like

the wolf, prove very destructive to the flocks. The greyhound breed are still to be found in the *Rodings*, or middle part of the county of *Essex*; they are very large and bred above ground, whence they are supposed to derive extraordinary speed and wind; and a good run after a fox over the *Rodings*, has always been held in that part of the country, a fair trial for a hunter. The common-sized *cur* fox is, however, most generally met with. The fox is a playful as well as most sagacious animal, and their olfactory, or smelling faculties are most acute. The fox *clickets* in January, and the *dog*, or male, is then often heard to yelp or bark, and the *vixen* or bitch, litters in March and April, producing five or six at a litter. They breed generally but once a year, grow to the age of eighteen months, and live from twelve to fifteen years. The fox, in cold weather, sleeps unkennelled during the whole day, spending the whole night abroad, in search of his prey, and when unsuccessful, prowling to a late hour in the morning. In fine weather, however, he may sometimes be found abroad in the day time, basking upon the bank of a fence, or in any dry or warm place, near to break or cover. He is then generally pursued as soon as seen, like the owl, by the instinctive cries and screams of birds, who will watch and follow his motions until he take to earth.

A pack of *Fox-Hounds*, to make a figure in the field, must, as has been already directed, have been entered to *vermin scents* only, and strictly broken from *hare and deer*. They must also be gradually purged from *babblers and skirters*, and those plodding, low scenting hounds, which are too slow, or too old, to sustain the character of a pack, which now depends so greatly on speed. Too much riot in the hounds must be kept down by constant regular work, throughout the season, both for the sake of due discipline, and of keeping them in wind and to their best performance. The intermissions occasioned by bad weather, and the time necessary for recovery after the fatigue of hard chases, will render a punctuality in the former respect still more necessary. Great credit is no doubt gained by the dogs, horses, and hunters, for game and courage in long and harrassing chases, yet there is certainly more real gratification, in a dashing run of an hour or two if finished with blood. Frequent blood is absolutely necessary for hounds, to enable them to support a character, and to keep staunch to their proper scent. Hounds that kill but seldom, become discouraged, and hunt every succeeding day with less ardour and inclination, and merely as urged by the efforts of the huntsman.

The *huntsman*, should always be close to his hounds. At going out to hunt, the place of the

first *Whipper-in*, should be at some distance before the hounds, and that of the second *Whipper-in*, a small distance behind them. A Huntsman ought to have a powerful, sonorous, and agreeable voice, and the sense to know when to make the most of it, and when to be quiet. The head whipper-in ought to equal the huntsman, in his knowledge of the sport, as he must probably exceed him, in labour and activity, and has a fair claim to be his successor. He should be a first-rate horseman, and mounted upon one of the best horses in the field. He must observe a strict discipline in obedience to the *orders* of the huntsman; always maintaining his leaders halloo, stopping the straggling hounds, and getting forward with them. His station in drawing covers is on the side opposite to the huntsman, and within hearing of his halloo. The second whipper-in is stationed near to the huntsman. The necessary attendants of a considerable pack of hounds, grooms, stable and kennel boys, earth-stoppers, &c. are sufficiently numerous.



## April.

### *Sporting Engagements.*

HUNTING.  
THE STAG AND BUCK.

—  
FISHING.

—  
RACING.  
AT MALTON, NEWMAR-

KET CRAVEN MEETING,  
DURHAM, NEW-MARKET FIRST SPRING  
MEETING, CATTERICK  
BRIDGE, MIDDLEHAM.

STAG and BUCK Hunting, upon fresh Spring hunters, those which have been ridden through the winter season, enjoying rest and refreshment in their paddocks, are now regularly pursued by the votaries of the Chase. The chief business of the *Kennel* and the *Stud* is the care of the breeding bitches, and putting the brood mares to horse. In *Angling*, *Salmon Pink* will now bite freely, more particularly after a warm shower, taking either the bait of gentle or a small fly. Carp are now in season, and will bite in the morning, or evening, the hook being well covered by the bait. This fish is calculated, from its wariness, to exercise the skill and patience of the angler;

and the part of the pond intended to be fished should be baited several hours previously with such baits as are intended to be used. Carp being wanted, *nets* will often succeed better than the hook ; or if, from the nature of the place, nets cannot be used, *trimmers*, or *pike-lines* may succeed. *Perch* may be taken in rivers, by *trolling*, or by the *ledger* bait or pike-line ; they are not difficult, and will, in spring, bite at any time of the day or night. *Trout* are in high season, as also *dace* and *roach*. *Grayling* is never out of season.

In order to a young Sportsman's making a respectable figure in the field, the first requisites are, a good steady hunter and a firm and graceful seat upon him, previously acquired at the bar, at hedge and ditch leaping, and in galloping exercise. It is of importance to acquire the *proper* seat at first, as awkward and ungraceful habits are seldom got rid of afterwards. The use of a good hackney on which to ride to cover, will not be overlooked. It is by no means incumbent upon beginners, to dash at strong and difficult leaps, and less time is lost by dismounting at once, than in riding up and down, after more practicable places. Nor is riding madly and without apparent object, up and down the field, the best proof of a man's being a Sportsman. *There is a proper place for every man in the field*—in this the young Sportsman

should find himself as quickly as possible. It is—near enough to the huntsman, to watch his motions and conduct, whilst drawing covers and ordering the hounds. But let no one be ambitious enough to aim at superseding the huntsman in his duty, and at hunting the hounds for him. Neither is it good to have too much *tongue*, which may chance to be in the wrong time and place. Gentlemen should rather spread, and keep down the wind, than too close and sociably together, each doing his endeavour by his observations, to promote the plan which the huntsman may have in view.

The company ranging up and down the cover side, and the hounds collected, not a single one being left behind, the huntsman throws off into cover, and causing them to draw up the wind, proceeds to put in force the only *law* in fox hunting—*find and kill*. Those gentlemen who choose to enter the cover, must not interfere, but must observe a quiet circumspection, and by no means halloo too soon, which may occasion the fox, if unkennelled and on the pad, to turn back again, and hold to cover instead of breaking away. He may indeed range cover for a considerable time, whilst the huntsman quarters his hounds, leaving no part of the cover untried, until reynard's quarters becoming too hot for him and—off he goes! Now the *halloo forward!* and *gone away!*—

and for as much noise and dash, as any gentleman may find agreeable. This halloo should be loudly, and repeatedly given, that the Sportsmen who have remained without, may have timely notice.

The huntsman now keeps close to the leading hounds, the whippers-in bringing up the rear. All Sportsmen sufficiently well mounted, and able to hold way, should keep an attentive eye on the leaders, that should the scent be lost, it may be guessed how far the hounds have carried it. The length of the chase, in course, depend on the ability of the fox, and the distance he may be able to maintain from the hounds; if strong and determined, he may run many miles, affording to the company, plenty of joyous repetitions of the *vivacious halloo*, as well as the opportunity of proving the speed and game of their horses and dogs: or the hounds may break upon the fox, and after a smart burst, kill in high style or drive him to stop suddenly to a new fence, and return upon his foil. The hounds will then over-run the scent, and come *a check*. This brings the sport to a *stand-still*, and the seasoned sportsman, and those who know the country best, should now spread, and place themselves wherever the eye of experience can be most useful and effective; whilst the place of the *juniors*, is as near to the huntsman as possible, waiting in silent expecta-

tion the result. The huntsman, as was observed in bare hunting, in a similar predicament, should remain sitting quietly upon his horse, and attending to those hounds, on which he can best depend ; judging in the mean while, as to the course which the fox may have taken, and as to the necessity of making a cast with the hounds, which, at last, is not to be done, so long as they are able and shew a decided inclination to spread widely and cast themselves.

*Change of the Hunt*, or losing the hunted fox, and hitting upon a fresh scent, is an accident which must occasionally occur, and the remedy must depend on the huntsman's skill. The leading and best hounds will generally hold to the first scent, whilst the bulk of the pack will follow the fresh fox. It will remain with the huntsman, to judge which scent it will be most eligible to follow, which perhaps, in general, will be that of the fresh fox. Never allow lame hounds to be taken out, under the notion that they will run themselves sound, the sure way to lame them past recovery ; nor suffer the abominable and dangerous practice of hunting young hounds in couples, by which they get hung cross a hedge or style, where they remain tearing each other to pieces. They should remain coupled until the fox be found. Previously to *digging an earth*, it is proper to be assured that, the fox has really taken

to it; there being often disappointments of that kind. Never suffer a hound to be put into the earth to draw a fox, which is most cruel and useless: when so near to the fox, that he will seize a stick, it may be safe for a dog to draw him. Badgers should not be encouraged in fox covers, as they make strong earths, difficult and expensive to stop; and unstopped are ruinous to fox hunting. *The death of the Fox* before a regular pack of hounds, is attended with certain peculiar and appropriate ceremonies, of which the actual sight only can convey any adequate idea.

*Otter Hunting* comparatively with former times, is now little practised in this country, although in some parts of it, and in some seasons, otters are in sufficient plenty. The otter breeds once a year, late in the spring, bringing five or six cubs at a litter, frequenting narrow rivers, large pieces of water, and ponds; they are greatly destructive of fish, and when they get a haunt upon land, they prey upon poultry like the fox and weasel, which latter, the otter resembles in form. Its weight is from eighteen to forty pounds, the flesh coarse and fishy, but the heart said to be a dainty. The skin is valuable. The otter is taken by *nets* and *concealed traps*. It was formerly hunted by the large, deep flewed hounds, but any strong and high couraged dogs, which

will take water, answer well this purpose; for example, the *larger water spaniel* and *Newfoundland Dog*. A spear with shoulders and two lines which will hold in the flesh, is in use, when it is the chief object to kill; otherwise the diversion of the hunt is superior. The hunters customarily divide, each party beating their own side of the river. The otter being pursued he dives very deep, appearing again to *vent*, or take breath, at a considerable distance. If seized by a dog, unless it be strong, the otter is capable of pulling it under water. Being speared or wounded, and incapable of remaining in the water, he instantly makes for land, and bravely and dearly sells his life to the dogs.

*Vermi-Hunts*—the *Badger*, *Martin Cat*, *Pole-cat*, *Stoat*, *Squirrel*, &c. It is said that in some parts of England, there is yet a remnant existing of the primitive breed of wild cats. *Badgers* are styled *boar*, *sow*, and *pig*. The badger produces an annual litter of four, to six or seven pigs. He is two or three feet long, weighing from fifteen to thirty odd pounds, tortoise formed, with strong bear-shaped legs, the fore ones the longest, with exceeding strong and sharp claws, resembling the bear in many respects, particularly in attachment to their young. The badger confines himself entirely to his earth in the day time, seeking its food by night. His earths are generally in

dry ground, at the roots of trees, or in a bank or eminence. He seldom travels above a mile or two from home, and generally to open pastures, where his *fants* or dung, discover him. When hunted in moon light nights, all the earths are stopped, excepting one or two, in the mouths of which, sacks strongly fixed, are placed, having a drawing string, which compresses the mouth closely on the badger entering, and straining with his weight and struggles. The sacks being placed, a signal is given by horn or whistle, to throw off the dogs, usually two or three couples of the strongest and sharpest *terriers*, which have sometimes tough leathern collars to defend their necks. The badger in his combat with the dogs, receives them lying on his back, in which position he can best guard himself, and use his sharp and powerful teeth and claws. Young dogs should not be exposed to the badger; which, however great his powers, both of offence and defence, like the otter, may be killed by a single forcible stroke upon the snout.

The *Martin Cat*, of which, although a diminished race, considerable numbers remain in *Essex* and *Suffolk*, has the body of a *weasel*, with the head and tail of a *fox*, the ears excepted, which are rounded. It is about a foot and a half long; from nose to tail, which is bushy, and nearly an additional foot in length. In form and action,

elegant and sprightly; colour dark tan, with a white throat, belly of a dusky brown, the legs and upper side of the feet a chocolate brown, the lower sides being covered with a thick ash-coloured down, like that below the external coat of the other parts of the body. The unctuous matter exuding from the glands near the *anus*, in this animal, is said to be a perfume; whence the martin may be styled the *civet cat* of the north, although the similar excretion in all the others of the weasel tribe is so excessively offensive. The skin and excrements also of the martin cat are of a musky scent, enhancing the value of the fur. Such an extraordinary qualification would surely render it an object to domesticate this cat, granting it would catch vermin like the common cat, the excrements of which are such a nuisance. The martin inhabits the woods, breeding in hollow trees, and sheltering through the winter in nests of magpies and the larger birds. They bring four to seven or eight young. The *Pine* martin, the largest and most valuable breed, is found in Wales and in the North, and is said to build its nest on the tops of trees. Their food, game, small birds, poultry, and for want of these, rats, mice, moles, and grain. They are greatly destructive of pheasants, and will attack bee-hives for the honey.

This is an excellent hunt to teach young fox-

hounds to run cover, since when *untreed*, the cat will run the thickest bushes by choice; it is, however, objectionable as to the scent, which is sweet, and quite opposite to those to which the fox-hound should be restricted. The martin will run many miles and shew great sport, taking constantly to trees, in order to recover his wind, the hounds in the meantime baying him, until frightened or cudgelled down, when he shews a most wonderful agility, frequently alighting in the midst of the pack, and, although each hound is mad to catch him, he is seldom caught, whilst in sufficient strength to escape; and his escape is greeted with a merry and loud general halloo! This is the crisis and chief pleasure of the martin hunt. At his death, if not too much exhausted, he generally leaves a remembrance of him upon the noses of the dogs.

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## DEER HUNTING.

THE DEER is one of the five beasts of *Venery*, and thus distinguished and denominated: RED DEER, or the *Stag* and *Hind*, their offspring a *Calf*. The HART, or six years old stag. FALLOW DEER, or *Buck* and *Doe*, offspring a *Fawn*.

The ROE-BUCK, *Buck, Doe, and Fawn.* A SORE, a male deer from four years old.

Deer procreate in the second year; their term of gestation, eight months, and they seldom produce more than one at a birth, excepting the Roe-buck. They are in perfection at from three to five years, and live from twenty to thirty. The fallow deer chiefly, with some stags, are kept in parks, and fattened frequently, stall-fed like other cattle: where the market for venison is supplied, stags have been fattened to the weight of forty stones. The deer is probably indigenous to this country, or its original introduction is lost in the depths of antiquity. The Roe-buck is, perhaps, the smallest sized of European deer, and was formerly confined to the northern parts of this island, but of late years has been introduced into *Dorsetshire*, by the Earl of Dorchester and Mr. Pleydell, and is now found there in considerable plenty. They are there hunted with *harriers*, and the covers drawn for them as for fox. In the forests and chases of Scotland large herds of wild deer are yet to be seen; and upon the moors and chases of the West of England, the red deer still remains; but from the increasing extent of cultivation, they are at present but thinly scattered.

Deer hunting in ancient times stood in the first rank and consequence of the chase, and is

at present a royal diversion, there being a splendid establishment for the hunt on *Windoer forest*. Few packs besides, of deer hounds, are now kept in this country, the Fox hunt having, for upwards of a century past, become the favourite chase of the English. The Earl of Derby and several other great sportsmen have packs of hounds which hunt both deer and fox. The best part of deer hunting, and most resembling the natural chase, is the unharbouring *an outlying deer*, tried for by the hounds, which, in an inclosed country, may find a long day's work for them, and great sport for the hunters. In the *regular deer hunt* the game is carted to a particular spot at the cover side, and turned before the hounds with the accustomed *law*; and if in condition and good will, he runs his length across the country, makes his circles, and returning upon his foot, regains his harbour; or is overtaken by the hounds, run down and killed, or preserved for a future day, deer hounds being trained to *stop*, although within the scent of blood. The stag is an animal of great courage, and extremely dangerous to encounter at certain seasons. The *Roe-buck* is supposed to do less injury to woods than other deer. Its flesh resembles that of the hare, both in flavour and in being entirely without fat; is in season during the winter: in perfection from eighteen months

to two years and a half old. Bringing two, sometimes three fawns at a birth, they soon stock a chase.

Deer were formerly coursed by greyhounds, a courtly diversion in the reigns of Elizabeth and James; and the same sport is occasionally pursued at present in parks and chases. *Deer stealing* has long since given way to *poaching* of other game.

The *Rev. William Chafin*, of *Chettle House, Cranbourn Chase, Dorset*, of an ancient sporting family, and who has followed the *Rushmore Buck hounds* *seventy years*, in his late curious and entertaining publication, intituled, “*Anecdotes of Cranbourn Chase*,” gives an account, which must be novel to most readers, of *Summer Hunting the Buck* in the West of England, as practised in former days, and a favourite diversion in the reigns of the Charleses and James II. The time of meeting at cover was invariably *four o'clock in the evening*, the sportsmen having taken a luncheon at two o'clock, dining after the chase, at the most fashionable hours of the present day. Mr. Chafin supposes that, the summers in former times were hotter than at present, but he will now doubtless make an exception in favour of the passing season, which has surely been a rare one for the evening hunt, were that not out of fashion. The evening summer hunt must be

both pleasant and convenient did it consist with modern arrangements. The deer at that time are easily found, empty and well able to run; as the dew falls the scent gradually improves, and the cool air inspirits and invigorates the horses and the hounds. Buck hunting, however, is most proper for the evening; for, although hunting the stag be a summer diversion, that chase might prove too long for the light. The ancient *Steeple chase* is, now and then, practised at present, by brave candidates for the opportunity of breaking their own necks, or ruining their horses. It is merely a match to ride from one given point to another, a certain number of miles across the country, *as the crow flies!*

On *Hawking* it would be a waste of time to dilate, since it has become long obsolete, and is never likely to be revived, under the present circumstances of the country, and of society. *Colonel Thornton's* books are the best guide to the little which remains of hawking, at the present time.

## May.

### *Sporting Engagements.*

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FISHING.

SEE TABLE.

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HUNTING.

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RACING.

AT MICHEL GROVE, SUS-

SEX, CHESTER, NEW-MARKET SECOND SPRING MEETING, YORK SPRING MEETING, BEVERLY, EPSOM SPRING MEETING.

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THE *Hunters* turned abroad, and the *covering Stallions* should, during the past and present month, have a daily portion of *lucerne* cut for them, where that most excellent, cooling, and medicinal grass can be grown. The *Turf* now begins to attract the general attention, and the *Cock-pit* claims a secondary place to that grand diversion. The great national meetings of *Newmarket*, *York*, and *Epsom*, summon our great Sportsmen to the betting-post. To the Angler's list we may now add *bream*, *barbel*, *smelt*, *eels*, *pope*, *gudgeon*. *Bream* are a gregarious fish, and are found in shoals, both in rivers and ponds; they grow to a considerable size, and always

bite close to the ground, but are difficult to catch. The *barbel* is also a shy and difficult fish, and so active after being caught, as to leap out of the hand or the basket. A *jack* is a young pike, under twenty-two inches in length. *Eels* will bite at any time in the day, the bait upon the bottom. *Gudgeon* are taken in shallow water, and gravelly and stony bottoms, which should be raked until the water be thick, when gudgeon will bite. In cold weather these fish retire to deep water, and are not so easily taken.

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## THE FRESH WATER FISHERY, ANGLING, &c.

FRESH WATER Fish are caught, whether for profit or diversion, by the methods of *netting*, *snares*, *bobbing*, and *angling* with *rod*, *hook*, and *line*, and variety of *baits*, living, dead, or artificial. The usual division is into *River* and *Pond fishes*. The chief of the former are, the *Salmon*, *Trout*, *Pike*, *Grayling*, *Perch*, *Roach*, *Dace*, *Chub*, *Barbel*, *Pope* or *Ruff*, *Smelt*, *Gudgeon*, *Eel*. *Pond fishes*, that is to say, the species with which ponds are usually stocked, are *Carp*, *Tench*, and *Eels*; although many or most of the

river fishes will thrive in large ponds, more especially lakes: the latter often abound in a variety of both river and pond fish of the largest size, exclusive of others peculiar to extensive waters. The *apparel* of the experienced fisherman should be dark in colour and close in form, that it may contain nothing to alarm the fish; green, however, seems the modish angler's colour;—also, well lined and warm, particularly as to the head and feet, the latter of which should be preserved dry as possible, in order to the *prevention* instead of the *cure* of rheumatism and its concomitants.

*Fishing tackle* has long been manufactured with great neatness and perfection, and the angler should purchase in the first instance, as a rule, even should he intend afterwards to manufacture for himself. For *Rods*, the preference is ancient in favour of *ground-hazel* and *ground-ash*, which should be cut towards the end of autumn, and kept until properly seasoned, under the pressure of weight, which may preserve them unwarped and straight. The *Bag Rod* is now generally used, whether for *float* or *fly fishing*. It may be conveniently placed in a bag, and contained in a side pocket adapted for the purpose. *Hiccare*, and the tough woods, with shaved *bamboo*, are used in making this rod, the joints of which ought to fit to extreme nicety. The *Salmon Rod* is made of *ash*, with a *whalebone top*.

LINES are made of horse-hair or silk ; when of hair, it should be evenly sorted, that the strength may be in proportion, and that the hairs may not break singly. The colour grey or white, as the nearest to the water colour. For muddy waters and ground angling, reddish brown, or chesnut coloured hairs are best suited. FLOATS are made of the hardest and best quills, and their load should be so nicely adjusted that, the top, appearing above the surface of the water, may be moved by the slightest nibble of a fish. For fishing with a heavy bait, a cork float is requisite, resembling in shape, a child's spinning top. The cork must be sound and free from flaws, and may be bored with a small red hot iron, lengthwise through the centre ; then cut across the grain, about two thirds of its length ; and the remaining third, or summit of the float, should be rounded with it, and smoothly finished with pumice stone. In *float fishing*, the line should be about one foot shorter than the rod, for the convenience of unhooking the fish ; length of the rod, from fourteen to fifteen feet ; light, stiff, and elastic, so as to strike at the extremity of the whalebone. HOOKS are in variety, adapted to the variety of fishes, and are sharpened with a small whetstone. The iron must be so well tempered, that they are neither brittle nor to be bent.

*General Assortment of Tackle for fishing below*

the surface or at bottom. Different kinds of lines neatly coiled up; strong single hairs; hooks untied of various sorts, as well as hooks tied to bottom links of coarse and fine gimp, of twisted and single silk-worm gut, of hogs' bristles, and of white and reddish hair; cork and quill floats, and spare caps; shot split, and small pistol bullets, to poise the floats; shoemakers' wax for the purpose of arming the hooks; silk of various sizes and colours, as hooks for worm fishing and red paste are usually tied on with scarlet, those for gentles with yellow paste, and for grubs with straw-coloured silk; a plummet to ascertain the depth of the water; a clearing ring to disentangle the hook, if at a stump or other immoveable substance; but if it hung to weeds, let the ring get below the hook, then pull the twine, and the ring will break the weeds, and save both line and hook; but if it do not release the hook, the line will be broken near to it, and will not be strained in any other part. Sharp pen-knife, pair of scissars, small whetstone, landing net, disgorgier, light fishing basket or creel.

The Tackle Book, to be bought at the Maker's, is superior to the common bag; it contains pockets and partitions for wool, fur and hairs of the finest sorts, large and small feathers of the different kinds in use, &c.

The Fishing Season extends from *Lady-Day* to October. Winter Angling may be convenient for

a country family, where fish are plentiful: for this, mild and calm weather and deep waters are most proper. As to angling in general, the most favourable hours were formerly supposed to be *four* in the morning, until *nine*; and *three* in the afternoon, until twilight; but when fish are in plenty, any hour, whether of day or night, may be successful, in favourable weather, either calm, or the waters gently agitated by light and rustling winds. In summer heats, the coolest time of the day should be chosen. Great heats, high and cold winds, heavy rains, hail and deep snow, are inimical to angling. Fish are driven from the spot by sheep-washing, and by great quantities of leaves of trees shed into the water. Generally, whenever fishes play, they will also bite; when the trout leaps above water, and the pike shoots in pursuit of his prey. The best chance for a bite, will often lie in deep holes, clogged with weeds, and under the roots of old trees; in such places however much risk is incurred of entangling the hook, and much caution is required in striking at a bite, as too sudden and violent a jerk may, at once, break the best tackle.

*Baits for Angling, &c.* are, the living—common small red worms of any description—*cadis, bob, or clap-worms. Wasps, grubs, maggots, gentles;* those found in ploughed lands, garden *lob or dew worms to bob for eels. Snails slit, shrimps, beetles,*

grasshoppers ; small fishes, *minnow*, &c. Large baits, *roach*, *dace*, *smelts*; yellow and green frogs. Various flies—stone-fly, and *green-drake*, from the river side; *May-fly*, *Oak-fly*, *Ant-hill-fly*, black or *Hawthorn-fly*, *Palmer* or caterpillar fly or worm. To keep flies alive, they must be preserved, as much as possible, in their natural state, whether as to earth or water. *Gentles* should be put into bran or moss, several days before used.

*Dead Baits.* Various *pastes*, in which is mixed some glutinous or adhesive material, to prevent their being washed off the hook. Some choose to colour or perfume their pastes, in order to render them enticing to the fish; as with vermillion to nearly the hue of salmon roe, and mixed with honey, and scented with tincture of *benzoin* or *brandy*, oil of *asprefy*, *coccus indicus*, *assafætida*, oil of *polypody*, or the like. Blood of sheeps' hearts, worked up with honey and flour, is a good paste. Or, strong-scented old cheese, mixed with rancid butter, or rusty fat of bacon melted, which some Anglers colour with turmeric or saffron: this last paste is supposed best for winter angling. The *eyes* of fishes are good bait for every species. Sheeps' blood, the kidney fat of a sheep, and ripe cherries pounded in a mortar, with wheat flour, were formerly in great repute as a bait. The scent of *camphor* also, is said to be attractive to all kinds of fish.

*Artificial flies* may be purchased, with proper directions, or made at home, by those who have leisure. As a *colouring* for lines and artificial flies, which should be a *water-green*, the following is an old and successful receipt—A pottle of alum-water, with a large handful of *marigolds*; these having been boiled, infuse one pound of green *copperas* in fine powder, with the hairs, to be boiled again, during half an hour; to be then cooled during half a day, and the hairs withdrawn, which will have embodied the desired colour. For a *yellow* colour, instead of copperas, boil in the alum-water, marigolds as before, with the addition of a handful of *turmeric*, or green walnut shells, steeping your articles, at least, twenty-four hours.

It is submitted to Anglers, whether their diversion could not be rendered less cruel, by the use of dead baits, instead of the *larger* living ones. It is certain that, the carnivorous fishes will bite at the baits when dead, provided they be fresh and clean, and be moved about by the angler, to resemble the living prey. *Pike* and all voracious fishes will bite eagerly at a piece of beef, of calf's or sheep's heart, or the entrails of animals. Night lines also, as the present writer has experienced, may be successfully baited with dead baits.

*Top or Surface Fishing with the fly.* This may be styled the elegant branch of the diversion of

angling, and for the angler to acquit himself handsomely, requires great dexterity and adroitness in the use of the rod ; in part a natural gift, but chiefly the result of practice. The line generally, should be twice as long as the rod, unless the water be full of obstructions. A small fly with clear wings, is best adapted to clear waters, but larger may be used in muddy waters. The colour of the fly should be suitable to those of the water and the air, a store being in reserve of *orange, red-brown, black and light coloured flies* : the angler to keep out of sight of the fish, the greatest practicable distance from the water side, and fish *down* the stream, with the sun in his face. The fly must be thrown upon the water, without the line touching it. In slow and still waters, cast the fly across, and letting it sink a few inches, drawing it leisurely back, when it will describe a circle. Strike *instantly* on a bite, or the fish may clear the hook and escape. The fly-fisher thus walks down the stream : in a strong wind, he may remain stationary, near sheltered and deep waters.

*Trimmer Angling* is used in the still parts of a river, in *canals*, or large pieces of water. A round cork is used, half a foot in diameter, with a groove, on which to wind up the line, allowing enough with the hook, to hang about midwater, and so much of the other end as will reach to the

bank, where it is to be made fast. It may be so left, whilst the angler attends other lines. When the pike, or other fish, runs off with the bait, the line veers off with him, without a check, to the end. On taking in the line, the usual *jerk* is necessary to secure the fish.

*Trolling* is in use for *pike*, *salmon* and *cods*. The trolling rod is twelve to fourteen feet long, and may be made with a common rod, having fitted to it, a strong top, with a ring at the end, for the line to run through, and with one ring upon each joint, to conduct the line, set on straight, that the line may run freely, and that no sudden check, may prevent the fish from gorging the bait. The line should be of silk, with a swivel at the end, to receive the armed wire or gimp, and full thirty yards long, wound upon a reel, fenced at the butt-end of the rod. Trolling hooks should not be too large, nor the points stand too high. Cut off the wire about an inch from the lead, and fasten securely about a foot of strong gimp to the wire, a noose being left at the other end of the gimp, large enough to admit the bait to pass through, in order to hang it on the line. The hook baited, may be gently put into the water, and the bait be kept in constant motion, sometimes towards the bottom, and alternately raised up to the surface. If pike will bite at all, they generally lay hold at first. This fish

having struck, must be indulged with all the line he will draw, until he reach his haunt, when he may be allowed five or ten minutes, not more, to pouch his bait; the line must then be wound up gently, until the fish be seen, which he will often suffer pretty quietly, although he shall not have gorged. Should the bait be still in or across his mouth, more time must be given him. Should he be sensible of the hook, and be struggling to clear his mouth of it, the angler must endeavour to make it more secure by a jerk, and do his best by playing with and tiring out his fish; but should it have swallowed the bait, it remains, by veering out plenty of line, to manœuvre and keep the fish clear of roots of trees and other obstructions, until he can be landed with the net. A pike of any considerable weight cannot be safely lifted out of the water with the rod and line. In trolling, the bait should never be thrown too far into the water, which alarms the fish. Clear waters are best to troll for pike, and a rough wind, if not a cold one, will forward the sport. The best months for trolling are *February* and *October*; the latter being the highest season for pike, when they are in the finest condition.

*Shooting large fish* is occasionally practised. The aim must be directly under the fish, on account of the resistance of the water. In landing a pike beware of his teeth. In *Snap angling*

the snap has two large hooks placed back to back with a small one in the centre, on which to place the bait. The float swims down the current; and on perceiving a bite, the angler gives a sudden *snap*, a jerk, keeps his line tight, and without giving the fish any play, draws him towards the shore, and nets him for landing. Pike are also taken by *ledger* baits, or lines left by night; and by *snaring* with a noose of wire, fixed to a strong pole, in those deeps or holes, in which pikes may be seen reposing in the hottest part of a summer's day. The snarer gently slips the wire over the head and gill-fins of the fish, and with a jerk hoists it to land. This is obviously most practicable with *jacks*, or young pike. To the catching of trout and carp by *tickling* them, which we learn from an old volume of the *Philosophical Transactions*, may be added a method at least as probable to be successful, that of a person lying down by the water side, in a warm day, and taking out a fish at a time, with a hand covered by a green worsted knitted glove.

## June.

### *Sporting Engagements*

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**SUMMER HUNTING.  
THE STAG & ROE-BUCK.**

**VERMIN HUNTING.  
THE BADGER, MARTEN  
CAT, AND OTTER.**

**FISHING.**

**RACING.  
AT SOUTH SHIELDS,**

**GUILDFORD, MANCHES-  
TER, MADDINGTON,  
GRIMSBY, NEWTON,  
ASCOT HEATH, TEN-  
BURY, NEWCASTLE  
UPON TYNE, BIBURY,  
STAMFORD, NANT-  
WICH, HAMPTON, MID-  
DLESEX.**

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SUMMER hunting the *Stag* and *Roe-buck* is warm work, since not practised as in former days, in the *evening*. To find the deer and hunt him with *fox-hounds*, is the favourite sport of our determined summer hunters, and is good exercise for fox-hounds perfectly recovered and rather above themselves in condition. Vermin :—*badger*, and *martin cat*, and *otter* hunting, increase the sporting business of the summer months. *Fly-fishing* is now at its height of interest among anglers, and natural flies to be had in plenty.

The *Pike*, or fresh water *shark*, is too well known to need description. This fish, it is said, has been ascertained to have lived to the age of nearly *three hundred* years. His greatest weight in Ireland has been seventy pounds, in Scotland fifty, and in England nearly fifty. Pike frequent shady, deep, and undisturbed waters, having a solid, not muddy bottom, and are in such, of the largest size. In summer, they are found among *flags*, *bulrushes*, *waterdocks*, and under the *runculus aquaticus*, when in flower and floating; also in the deeps which terminate sharp currents. In winter they retire to the deepest water, under shelter of banks, roots of trees, and bushes; into mill-dams, and under bridges. The female pike, and the young, not above from five to ten pounds weight, are the best for the table.

The largest *Salmon* approach the weight of forty pounds. They divide their time, unless obstructed by *weirs*, rather equally between the *rivers* and the *sea*, entering the fresh rivers in February or March, where they remain until August, and having cast their spawn, return to the sea. The salt water promotes their growth, and the fresh makes them fat; such as cannot visit the sea being inferior in size and insipid in flavour, and even perishing if they miss their annual sea visit for two seasons. Scotland and Ireland abound with *salmon*, and the markets of England

would dispense with a far more plentiful supply than they have. The chief English and Welsh rivers which produce salmon, are the *Severn, Trent, Dee, Ex, Usk, Wye, Lon, Tyne, Working-ton, Weaver, Medway, Thames*, and some others. In Lancashire formerly, salmon abounded beyond the demand. The salmon is sportive and restless, and swims towards the springhead, in the midst of the deep and broad parts of the water, or near the ground, and bites best in the afternoon, in clear water, fanned by fresh and pleasant zephyrs; or when the wind and stream setting in opposite directions, cause a rippling upon the water. He is fickle with respect to baits, exercising the patience of the angler, and giving him plenty of work. The best *baits* are large, gaudy *artificial flies*, *lobworms* well scoured, *fish*, *raw cockle* or muscle from the shell, or *prawns*. The *hook* must be large and strong, and well armed with *gimp* or *Westphalian bristles*. A *ledger bait* must be left about the middle of deep water; and *bottom fishing* for salmon is usually more successful than *top* or *fly fishing*.

The *varieties* of the *Trout* are the *Scurf, Bull-trout, Salmon-trout* or *Salmon-peale*. *Salmon-trout* is a variety of the trout resembling the salmon. The *Samlet, Brandling* or *Fingerin*, are found in some parts of this country, of small size, and apparently partaking of the nature of

the trout or salmon. The famous *Forditch-trout*, partaking of the nature and habits of the salmon and nearly of its size, lives nine months of the year in the sea, and is seldom caught by the angler. Its flesh cuts white. In the lakes of *Geneva*, the trout is said to attain the weight of fifty pounds, and in *France* they have pond-trout which reach thirty pounds. *Ireland* and *Scotland* produce large trouts, and in some of our largest English rivers, they have been found of the weight of nearly forty pounds; in small streams they seldom reach above seven or eight pounds. They will feed to a vast size in ponds and stews. Both the red and white *Char* of the meers and *lakes* are of the trout species. The most esteemed trout are the *red* and *yellow*, and the female is preferred, being known by the smaller size of the head and greater depth of body. They *spawn* in November and December; but, unlike other fish, are not in high season when full of spawn, being fattest and best in the height of summer; throughout winter, trout is lean, ill-flavoured, and unwholesome.

The trout is both of superior excellence for the taste, and perhaps our greatest favourite for the sport of angling. BAITS:—*brandling*, *lob-worm*, *earthworm*, *dungworms*, *gentles* or *maggots*, *natural* or *artificial flies*, and the usual fish baits, the trout being very voracious. He is a quick

and sharp biter, not difficult as to the kind of fly, whether artificial or natural, but for bottom fishing, lobworm is his most killing bait. In fly fishing, the best chance for trout is to sink the fly half a foot below the surface, and the fly-fisher should place himself with the wind at his back, blowing down the stream. Trout shelter and lurk under banks or large stones, and among weeds, watching their prey, their heads only visible, and it is usual for the angler to go silently up the stream and stir the water from the bottom, immediately throwing the bait into the place trouted. This sometimes succeeds. The oldest and largest trout are caught by night, when they bite ravenously, lying on the top of the water ready for any prey. No lead is then used, but the bait thrown gently across the surface, and drawn back towards the angler. Trout are also dibbed for, as *chub*, with a strong rod and short line.

## THE TURF, OR HORSE-RACING, *BREEDING, & TRAINING.*

HORSE AND CHARIOT-RACING were practised by the ancient *Greeks* and *Romans*, and the former was revived in this country, and for a long period of time was peculiar to it. Horse-racing is even at this day confined to England and her dependencies, and to the United States of America ; France, after making trial of the sport for a few years, having abandoned it. Public Horse-racing for Plates and Matches assumed a regular form, as early as the reign of James I. and the science of breeding and training seems to have been then somewhat mature. *Newmarket*, from the elasticity and excellence of the turf by which it was surrounded, became at that period the head-quarters of Horse-racing, a superiority which it has ever since retained. The *Curragh* of *Kildare* maintains a similar pre-eminence in Ireland.

The British and Irish race-horse is, or ought to be, descended from the pure *South Eastern* blood, or race of horses only ; and the crosses or admixtures of the common breed of this country, in the reputed runner, have been rare and acci-

dental. The true breed, or original *Courser*, at least that which has been in the highest estimation, within the last century, is the Mountain Arabian and the Barb, although we have had successful stallions from Turkey, Syria, and Persia. The true *Arabs*, perhaps, seldom or never exceed fifteen hands in height. The *Barbs* seldom exceed fourteen hands, and are of a more slender form, and more leggy than the Arabians, with somewhat of a mulish appearance. None, however, of the foreign horses, from which our racers spring, have ever proved racers in this country themselves, notwithstanding ancient and somewhat recent trials. About half a century since, there was a plate at Newmarket for imported Arabians, but they trained so ill, and shewed so little running upon the course, chiefly speed, and that in no considerable degree, that it was soon discontinued; and imported horses, in England, are not expected to race, but to procreate racers. In Bengal, the native southern horses, Arabs, Syrians, and Persians, are the chief racers; and, it is averred, are there superior to the racers imported from England. Perhaps the length of the voyage, and the heat of the climate, unnerve and disable the English bred horse, or that none of high qualifications are exported.

The *appellations* by which the *Courser* is distin-

guished in common use, are, the *racer*, *race-horse*, or *running horse*: a horse which is truly bred for the course, both by sire and dam, whether he be able to race or not, is denominated *thoroughbred*, or *bred*. A horse having a shew of racing blood is called a *blood-horse*. The produce of a bred horse and common bred mare, or *vice versa*, is styled *half-bred*; that of a half-bred mare and bred horse *three parts bred*; and that from a three part bred mare and a bred horse *seven-eights bred*. Horses of the last description have occasionally proved racers, as *Sampson*, the last *Driver*, and a few others.

The true *form* of the *racer* from *Mr. Lawrence*: “In order to capital performance, a racer should have sufficient general length; but in the neck and legs length should be moderate; open nostrils, and loose and disembarrassed windpipe; high, deep, and extensive shoulders, falling back into the waist; broad and substantial loins or fillets, deep quarters, wider in proportion than the shoulders, that the hinderfeet may be farther apart than the fore; the curve of the hock sufficient to give adequate support to the loins; the pasterns to correspond with the neck and legs in moderate length and declination, and the toes to point in a direct line. Such are the cardinal points in a race-horse, and as these prevail more or less, in proportion will be his speed or his stoutness, in

other words, power of continuance.—The most perfect shape for strength and action consists in the union of width and depth; width decreasing, and depth somewhat increasing at the shoulder, which should also decline backward.”

In the race-horse the shoulders are the most material parts, as being most contributory to action. In some the back is short, with a close approximation of the ribs and hip-bones, the defect of length being made up in the legs, and perhaps the neck: in others, their length lies chiefly in the waist, with a considerable space between the ribs and bones; this latter form or the inclination towards it, for the extreme has an evident tendency to weakness, granting it be supported by proportionate depth of carcase, substance of loin, and extent in the haunches, is, perhaps, most conducive to stride, and the power of continuance, if not to ready action. The above descriptions indicate the round or *barrel* shape, and its opposite the deep or *counter* form; at any rate, according to the old rule, *a racer must have length somewhere.*

From the solid texture of the sinews, and substance of the bones, in the southern horse, and his descendant the English racer, they are enabled to carry greater weight in proportion, either in rest, or in action, than the northern or horses of Europe, a fact which was determined sixty

or seventy years since, by a curious experimental bet of the late well-known sportsman Captain Vernon, whose mare *Amelia*, by the *Godolphin Arabian*, won the palm, by bearing a greater weight without shrinking, than a miller's horse was able to do, which had been accustomed to carry heavy loads throughout his life. Such trials, however, like long and desperate races, are barbarous, almost unavoidably ending in the irreparable injury and misery through life, of the poor victims of them; and deserve not the countenance of Sportsmen. It is to be observed that, from the fineness of the skin, and smoothness of the hair in the bred horse, the bone does not shew size and bulk so prominently as in the common coarse-haired horse, whence there may be a deception in the appearance of the former, with respect to strength. *Sampson*, the race-horse, measured eight inches and a half round the smallest part of his fore leg, and nine inches round the same part of his hinder leg.

## July.

### *Sporting Engagements.*

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#### FISHING.

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#### HUNTING.

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#### RACING.

AT IPSWICH, LANCASTER,  
LUDLOW, BATH, NEW-  
MARKET JULY MEET-

ING, PRESTON, IRVINE,  
BRIDGENORTH, STOCK-  
BRIDGE, CHELMSFORD,  
NOTTINGHAM, DERBY,  
GLAMORGAN, SWAFF-  
HAM, GOODWOOD, OX-  
FORD, BRIDGEWATER,  
YARMOUTH, WINCHES-  
TER, KNUTSFORD.

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IN the present month, the *hunting* groom takes up his horses from grass, the fly being now busy, and prepares to get them through their physic previously to training them for the approaching season. The *racing* groom is more occupied in keeping up the condition of his engaged horses, and dispatching them forward upon their journeys. *Racing* and *cocking* are the prevailing sports of this month, but it has been remarked, and with truth, that the votaries of the gun may find diversion throughout the whole year, in

pigeon shooting, and in pursuit of birds of the marsh, fen and common.

The *Paces* of the *Racer* are the *walk* and the *gallop*; in the latter, some push the leg forward naturally, with the knee very slightly bent, and were styled by the old jockies, *daisy cutters*, going so near to the ground, as to shave, as it were, the turf with their hoofs: these may be true racers, but they are very unsafe to ride upon the road. Other racers bend their knees like road horses, and lifting their feet clear of the ground, have a more active, though a shorter stroke. These latter, granting they have a moderate stride, and sufficient internal power to support the additional labour of making a greater number of strokes, will, in general, prove superior to the great striders, which are apt to over-reach themselves, and to loiter on the ground, their hinder quarters not following with sufficient energy, and *losing time whilst they cover space*; but when both qualifications are united in the same animal, it must, no doubt, be able to cover the greatest length of ground in a given time. Such pre-eminently, were *Flying Childers*, *Bonny Black*, and *Eclipse*; with which, of latter days, we have none to bring into comparison.

As to the *internal qualities* of the Racer, the hot and eager temperament is generally connected with delicacy of appetite, inaptitude for severe

tasks, to carry high weights, or for long courses; but accompanied with ready action or speed: horses of the opposite constitutional tendency will, for the most part, be found hard feeders, accumulating much internal fat, and carrying an external coat of solid and lasting flesh; able to carry weight, calculated for the longest distances, in need rather of being urged to exertion, than restrained by the rein, and more distinguished for *stoutness*, in the Turf phrase, namely, stoutness of heart, or ability to last, than for speed.

A true *Pedigree of the Race Horse* must record all the sires and dams to the last-mentioned and earliest, and prove them to have been *true-bred*, although it be not necessary that all of them should have actually raced. If the pedigree be short, it is requisite that the last mare mentioned be either a racer, or a known and true-bred brood mare, *British* or *Southern*. The *old* blood, or horses with the longest pedigrees, are generally held to be superior. *Example*, in the pedigree of one of our most famous racers—*Shark* by *Marsk*, dam by *Snap*, grand-dam by *Marlborough*, brother to *Babram*, out of a natural *Arabian* mare. Here, the dam was known to be a thorough bred daughter of *Snap*; *Marlborough*, although not distinguished as a racer, was full brother to one, and the *new* blood of the great grandam, had been blended with the highest English blood.

## THE BREEDING STUD.

RACERS may be bred in any part of our fortunate and plentiful country, with good stabling and paddocks, and a good exercise ground ; a light soil, soft water and elastic turf being preferable. Pedigree, in both horse and mare, is the first consideration ; the next ought perhaps to be thorough shape, but it is invariably high racing character ; and even in untried stallions and mares, pedigree always being considered before form. Indeed capital racing necessarily implies form in the *cardinal* points. Great size is another favourite consideration with Turf breeders, and so far just that, *a great good horse must always beat a little good one* ; but too many of our racers run too tall and leggy, and these horses should be bred with so much regard to strength and utility of form, that they may be useful for other purposes should they prove unable to race : it being well considered at first, how few bred horses prove capital runnets, and what a number are unable to run at all.

'It has never yet been usual to breed horses *in and in*, after the practice of our famous Cattle Breeders, although some of our highest formed racers have been so bred. *Crossing* in the Turf Stud, refers to an intermixture of the different

racing blood or stocks; for example, of the descendants of the *Godolphin Arabian*, or any of the later blood with the most ancient, as, the *Byerley Turk*, *Darley Arabian*, *Aliceck Arabian*, *Curwen Barb* and others, the rule being observed in their descendants respectively. But it is a very erroneous notion, to suppose that our race horses have originated in a cross between foreign and indigenous British horses. Such a course has never been held, in either theory or practice. Finally however, the cross for form and qualification, is of infinitely the greater consequence; as for example, to join a hot and speedy stallion with a temperate and stout mare, or the reverse; or long and loose shapes with the more substantial and fixed. On the important and nice points of this subject, various practical information will be found in the Additions to the third Edition of the Philosophical and Practical Treatise on Horses, to which breeders are referred.

To a person who does not intend to launch extensively into breeding for the turf, it obviously affords a better chance for a racer, to purchase a well bred and well shaped untried colt or filly; since according to the usual run of luck in the stud, many middling or worthless foals will be bred to one racer. Nor is it any matter of certainty that, a first rate running horse or mare, shall exhibit equal qualifications for breeding,

many of our best racers, having never produced good racing stock, even from a variety of the most capital mares. Once again, a stallion shall be tried for many seasons, producing nothing that can run, and yet in the ultimate, get capital stock. Endless examples of this kind might be given. A racing Stallion is certainly a good lottery ticket.

In former times, the *Stallion*, being turned loose to the mares, was in consequence unable to supply so many, as according to the modern system of covering in hand; accidents also must have been more frequent in the old practice, and the new has not always been exempt from them, whence the necessity of confining the mare, if not quiet. A standing of short posts fixed into the earth, to which the mare's pasterns may be strapped, is far preferable to loosely confining the legs. A mare was presented to the stallion, *hopped*, as it is called. She quickly got her legs loose, and with a kick, broke the horse's thigh. Mares are often *horsing* in the Autumn, and winter foals have been formerly bred, but modern experience gives no sanction to that custom, the *Covering Season* being in the Spring, extending generally, from *February*, to the commencement of the *Dog-Days*; the length of the term affording a double chance—to those mares which are backward in being stinted, and to those stinted

early, since priority, and the growth of two, three or four months, may be a great advantage to colts or fillies, engaged to run at two and three years old ; and since racers take the dates of their age, universally from May-day. The mare's horsing is usually periodical throughout the season, returning every *six, nine, or fifteen* days. Barren mares seldom refuse the horse : broken winded mares very rarely breed, and crib-biters are often barren.

Period of *Gestation* in the mare, from *eleven months and ten days, to a full year*. The mare goes longest with a colt foal, and generally longest with her first foal. The stud accounts of the writer hereof extend from *334 to 363 days*. A correct *Stud Book*, should be kept, comprising pedigrees, dates and memorandums of every kind, relative to breeding, existing state and disposal of the stock, and of all material concerns of the Stud.

After the mare has *foaled*, she will admit the horse in *three, four, or nine* days. The mare, if in health, and firm in body, may be covered at the *ninth* day, with a repetition the two days following. Mares must be presented to the stallion on every return of their horsing, until stinted, which will appear from their refusal of him ; the stinted mares are then turned into their paddocks, where should be thatch'd *sheds* or *hovels*,

as shelter from the sun and flies ; no geldings or young stock being admitted among them, from the risk of accidental abortion. Roomy and comfortable *Boxes*, well littered and frequently replenished, are equally necessary to protect the breeding stock from the inclemency of the weather, during the winter season ; and at all times, the feeding should be most liberal, consisting of the finest and most fragrant hay, the heaviest oats, and occasionally fine pollard ; with the choicest food of every season, carrots, lucerne, green tares, in short every article of provision conducive to their nourishment and comfort, the neglect of which will, in the end, be found far more expensive than the provision.

A punctual daily *inspection* of the brood mares, is necessary, and perhaps it is most safe to withdraw each individual, within a few days or a week of her reckoning, to a safe and convenient place by herself ; in early foaling or bad weather always within doors, or in a loose stable or out-house. The mare brings forth in a standing position, generally in the night, or early in the morning, and when in a secure place, is liable to as few accidents, and has as easy parturition, as any female whatever. Her signs of approaching delivery, visible three days previous are, diminished size of the belly, flaccidity of the udder, tail pointing out, swelling of the parts and discharge.

The *placenta*, or after burden, should be removed. It is most safe to allow the mare warm water, during the first and second day after delivery, with comfortable malt and pollard mashes ; and she and the foal being in health, nothing more is needed for them, but due attendance and the best keep, whether within or without doors. In breeding horses of every description, indeed all animals, it is a universal truth, *the best care and keep will produce the greatest profit*. Should the mare's milk fail, every food or drink should be allowed to encourage that secretion ; such as mashes, warm and sweet grains, the finest rowen or other hay, cordial ball, in as much mild ale as she will drink.

Racing and all other covering *Stallions* are much neglected. Their feet should be attended to, the toes kept short, and their hoofs be daily supplied with water. Racing stallions are too much confined to the stable, when air and gentle exercise would be highly beneficial to them. Bodily cleanliness should be observed, and if their legs, and the parts above were sluiced in water, either at home or abroad, morning and evening, it would greatly comfort and invigorate them. A gentle purge or two of the usual kind, a week or fortnight before the covering season, will greatly strengthen and benefit the stallion ; and should he be heated, and bound in body, in the midst of it, a very common

case, a single course of purging salts, will be an effectual remedy and restore his appetite and vigour. Or should he be loose and throw off his meat, afterwards, fine white split-peas, the smallest beans, or wheat, in small quantities, mixed with his oats, will probably restore and nourish him, if he be not overworked, too generally the case; a circumstance which will engage the attention of the proprietor of the mare to be covered, granting he know his own interest.



## August.

### *Sporting Engagements.*

#### SHOOTING.

GROUSE.

#### HUNTING.

#### FISHING.

#### RACING.

AT ABINGTON, HUNTINGDON, NEWCASTLE-UN-

DER-LYNE, BROXASH DOWNS, NEAR BROM-  
YARD, LEWES, SALIS-  
BURY, WORCESTER,  
CANTERBURY, BRIGH-  
TON, YORK, BLAND-  
FORD, HEREFORD, EX-  
ETER, EGHAM, CHES-  
TERFIELD.

THIS; as well as the last, may be deemed one of the busiest months of the sporting year, not only for the sports actually going forward, but on account of the various preparations for the ensuing winter campaigns. *Grouse* shooting commences in this month, and *flappers*, or young wild ducks, are sought in the brooks, rivers, and large pieces of waters; but they are yet too young, and of far more worth in the following month. *Salmon* and *trout* fishing in all the variety of mode, are in the height of perfection, the latter coming again into high season in the pre-

sent month. Great quantities of these valuable fish may be caught by the diligent angler. With respect to preparation, the *hunting* groom is now training and completing the condition of his horses, —the *huntsman* of his hounds. The *breaker* is finishing the education of his young *pointers*, for the grand trial on the first of next month; whilst the fire-arms are examined and put into the safest condition, and a stock of ammunition provided for the commencement of the season, a period of so much importance to the lovers of the gun.

A *foal* losing its dam, and no foster mother within reach, may be reared by hand, on cow's milk, as the race-horses *Cade* and *Milk-sop* were. That common defect in racing foals, *crookedness* in the pastern joints, and thence an oblique direction of the toe, inwards or outwards, admits of no remedy, but the superior one of *prevention*, in breeding from horse and mare both void of the defects, and of just form and symmetry, the defect in question arising from hereditary imperfection or weakness. Foals are *weaned* at the end of the grass season, and should be handled and headstalled as soon as possible. Yearlings must not be admitted among the mares and foals, as not broken of the habit of sucking. Colts and fillies are kept separate.

*Breaking* of young racers must always take place early, no particular impediment existing,

from the custom of training even two year olds for the course. Indeed, from the great expence of these horses, it is of consequence to know, as early as possible, their racing merits, although it must be granted, that too early work is highly injurious to their powers. They should be broken by a light weight and the most moderate work, it being always understood that, the horse or dog-breaker be a man void of passion, and of unconquerable patience of temper. Breaking the race-horse is the most simple part of that business; all that is required, being to give the nag a good mouth, and render it quiet to ride. As to paces, nature has already done the needful, in the natural walk and gallop, and we never inquire whether a running horse goes with his right or left foot first, leaving that to his own ease and discretion.

*Training the racer,* in the early periods of the turf, was loaded with a number of absurd, injurious, and superfluous practices; he was over clothed, purged, sweated, and kept in a stable at the temperature of an oven. The methods of training have been, of late years, greatly improved, although improvement may be yet with propriety carried somewhat farther. No horse should be put into galloping exercise, without the previous exhibition of two or three doses of the usual purging physic, to unlade his intestines

and cool his blood. Speedy or sharp exercise upon a loaded habit is dangerous; and all experience, much to be preferred to the theories of riding-school jockies, proves that, purgation is intimately and beneficially connected with horse-racing.

Rising grounds and a dry, sound turf, neither stony nor deep and adhesive, are the most suitable for the purpose of training;—which consists in *walking*, *cantering*, and *gallopping* exercises of the horses, in their *body clothes* and *hoods*, generally twice a-day; and in periodical gallops of four or five miles, styled *sweats*, every five, seven, or ten days, according to the condition or constitution of the horse. In a sweat, the horse is loaded with a number of clothes and hoods, and galloped through the piece, at a considerable rate, and excited to occasional bursts of speed, in order to promote a copious discharge of perspiration, and reduce his superfluous flesh. The run being finished, the horse is taken to a stable, or convenient shed, where he is immediately stripped, and the sweat removed from his body, with a wooden scraper.

The above routine is persevered in daily, during the length of time necessary to perfect the condition of the horse for the course, which will generally be in two or three months from the commencement of his exercise. The usual length

of the gallop is about a mile and a quarter, after which the horses are watered, then have a canter, and walk to stable. As they advance in wind and condition, their exercise is given more sharp, and they take their *brushing gallops*, in which they are put nearly to the top of their speed, to the length of half a mile or upwards. These, with the *trial*, complete the training process. The young ones are, in course, tried, either two miles, or over the course, which is four miles, against a reputed racer. A trial being intended, public notice is given of the time fixed, that no person may be found within sight of the horses.

In the winter season and uncertain weather, race-horses in training seldom go out more than once a-day. Winter training is generally practised from the opinion that horses, if once suffered to lose their racing condition, take afterwards too great a length of time to recover it, which is besides a matter of uncertainty: to this common notion should be opposed, the well known cooling and invigorating effects of the earth and the air upon the body, limbs, and feet of the horse, to be obtained in two months run in a well-sheltered paddock, provided with a warm loose stable in which to retire at his pleasure.

With respect to farther improvement in the training system, cautions were given many years since, by Mr. Lawrence, against excess in the

use of purges, which perhaps still prevails; against the too great weight of sweaters carried, particularly by young over-grown horses, from which they were generally crippled before they come to the starting post, and also against the too frequent use of sweats; it being at the same time proposed to omit heavy sweating clothes entirely with weak, washy, or bad-legged horses; in fact, to make some experiments of the success of training such horses without the usual sweats, which are always far more injurious to them than their actual races. An instance was given of a horse which had only walking exercise, with an occasional gallop or canter, and yet, with such training, ran three severe four mile heats for a plate, fully up to his usual form. Chifney, in his book says, on sweating the horse, "being thus worked, clothed, and stoved, it so affects him at times, that he keeps breaking out in fresh sweats, that it pours from him, when scraping, as if water had been thrown on him. Nature cannot bear this. The horse must dwindle. I think in the first place, that the horse has been too long at this sort of work for his sinews; then the clothing and stoving forces his juices from him, in such quantities as must destroy his spirits, strength, and speed; and much clothing jades horses. A horse don't meet with this destruction when he runs——." All the followers of the turf well

know the mild method of training and treatment of the race-horse, long since adopted and successfully persevered in, by Sir Charles Bunbury, and would find their account, both with respect to profit and humanity, by making trial of it.

The following quotation contains hints of the utmost consequence, not only to the proprietors of race horses, but of all others which are used for speedy travelling.—“ There is nothing more difficult to determine, than the existence, or extent of the injuries, affecting those fibres or threads, by which that wonderful piece of work, the animal machine, is sown together. A horse is suddenly let down in the sinews, but the injury may have been of gradual access, increasing necessarily with his exercise. At first, perhaps, a few muscular fibres were strained, that is, stretched beyond their natural limit of extension ; the parts affected become in consequence, more liable, and repetitions of the accident ensue, until the joints and tendons are disabled. It requires a practised hand and eye, and critical skill, to detect these injuries in their recent and remediable state. They are unknown and slighted by custom, until they forcibly make themselves known to be incurable.”—*Delin. Race Horse.*

With respect to the performances of Race Horses.—The *Devonshire, or Flying Childers*, in 1722, ran over the Round Course at Newmarket,

a distance of three miles, six furlongs, ninety-three yards, in six minutes and forty seconds, carrying nine stone two pounds; in which performance he must have moved eighty-two feet and a half in one moment or second of time, or *nearly* after the rate of a mile in one minute. He likewise ran over the Beacon Course, four miles, one furlong, one hundred and thirty-eight yards, in seven minutes, thirty seconds, covering at each stride, a space of twenty-five feet. He leaped ten yards on the level ground, with the rider on his back. It was never ascertained that *Eclipse* was timed by the watch, but it was judged that, in 1766, he ran the four miles over York Course, carrying twelve stone, in eight minutes. In the same year, *Bay Malton* ran the same course, with eight stone seven pounds, in seven minutes forty-three seconds and a half. *Merry Bachelor*, some years before, ran twenty-five miles in one hour. *Firetail* beating *Pumpkin*, carrying eight stone, ran a mile at Newmarket, in 1773, in one minute four seconds and a half; but no horse has hitherto been proved to have run, at any weight, a mile within one minute, although such a performance has been often supposed; nor has it hitherto been ascertained, how many miles a race horse is capable of running within one hour.

**Trotting.**—Perhaps our speediest horses of that description, have moved at the rate of full twenty-

three miles in one hour, since a single mile has been performed in several seconds less than three minutes, with a considerable weight. Sixteen miles have been fairly trotted over the road, several minutes within the hour, with twelve stone; and seventeen miles in fifty-three minutes, with six stone; a less weight to carry, by eighty-four pounds. In harness, and with a light carriage for the purpose, and over a chosen road, fourteen miles and a half were trotted in about fifty-seven minutes.

All Racing Transactions, and information relative to the Turf, are comprised in the annual volume, or Racing Calendar, published by Messrs. Weatherby, of London. These Calendars commenced in 1727. As to the present state of the Turf:—In 1816, there were eighty-two Race Courses in England, three in Wales, nine in Scotland, six in Ireland, and fifty-seven racing Stallions advertised to cover in England.

Fatal Accidents so frequently occurring at races, from persons heedlessly crossing the course during the race, the following example of Oxford is earnestly recommended to all Stewards of Races. The plan, which was published several years since, is said to have had the most complete success, in keeping the course perfectly clear. A score of foot, and two horse constables, were employed; the foot, all stout young men, selected

for the purpose, and specially sworn before the Mayor of the City, who strictly charged them to do their duty, and offend no one. On the bell ringing for saddling, the constables, in a body, with long staves, requested all the company to retire on the right side of the lines, which are double on each side, with ample room for all. This succeeded so well, that the attendance of the horse-constables was dispensed with the next day. It is necessary to have the constables specially sworn, by which they are protected from insult, and all who obstruct them are liable to prosecution. *Boards* also were put up at different parts of the course, strictly forbidding persons to cross while the horses are running, on pain of the severest prosecution.



## COCK FIGHTING.

THE very ancient diversion of *Cock-fighting*, or *Cocking*, generally accompanies that of the *Race Course*, and we find in the *Racing Calendar* for 1816, accounts of the Mains of Cocks, fought at *Chester*, *Newton*, *Stamford*, *Nantwich*, *Newcastle*, *Lancaster*, *Preston*, and *Swaffham*; the *Earl of Derby*, *Sir William Wynne*, *T. Legh, Esq.* *W. F. Brockholes, Esq.* and *Rowland Satterthwaite, Esq.* being the chief gentlemen-cockers. In the metropolis and environs, there are several Cock Pits, but the head-quarters of the sport are, the *Cock Pit Royal*, *Tufton-Street*, Westminster, commencing each night in the season at a quarter before six precisely. The year's Cocking usually begins soon after *Shrovetide*, at which festival, the unjust and barbarous practice of *throwing* at Cocks is now universally laid aside, and nearly forgotten, excepting among a few societies in the country, the most ignorant and despicable at present remaining.

As to *breeding and feeding of Game Cocks*, the best rules may be found in *Sketchley's Cocker*, and *Moubray's Treatise on Poultry*. Cockers have a similar prejudice in favour of this or that

particular colour, or strain, as Horse Coursers have of fashionable blood ; and such prejudice is apt to vary in the same way ; but at last, true blood, good form, and good management are, in both, the grand essentials. The cock is said to be in his prime and full vigour at *two years* old, which he probably retains to his fifth year ; the hen retains hers, somewhat longer. Cockers breed *in and in*, or from father and daughter, brother and sister, without scruple. The following is a description of a *Brood Cock*, in full health and vigour :—“ A ruddy complexion, feathers close and short, not cold or dry, flesh firm and compact, full-breasted, yet taper and thin behind, full in the girth, well coupled, lofty and spiring, with a good full muscular thigh, the beam of the leg very strong, a quick full eye, strong crooked beak, big at the setting on.” Such a one, not more than two years old, should be put to early pullets ; or a *blooming stag*, or yearling, with two year old hens, and when a cock, with pullets of his own get. *Uniformity of colours* is generally sought, and the hens selected of similar plumage to that of the cock : the same of *shape*, which is of greater object in a hen than *size* ; only she should be *lofty-crested*, short and close-feathered, with clean, sinewy, blood-like legs. *Shropshire* and *Cheshire* have been long famous for their breed of game cocks, and the *Shropshire reds* are

in particular high estimation. There was formerly in *Staffordshire*, a famous breed of cocks of a perfect jet black, *gipsey-faced*, black-legged, and rather elegant than muscular; lofty in fighting, close in feather, and well shaped. The breed soon degenerated. It is now found indispensable to those who have various sorts, not to hazard a match without a regular private trial, under the management of the intended feeders; and from such fair cocks, by the action of which they may form a satisfactory judgment.

The following *flash song*, characteristic of the London blackguard *Cocker*, was published by *Lemoine*, about the year 1783.

A saucy rolling blade am I,  
I keep a *Donkee Dick*;  
Thro' London streets my wares I cry,  
Up peck and *booze* to pick.

In Black Boy alley I've a *ken*,  
A *tyke* and fighting-cock;  
A saucy tip-slang *moon-eyed hen*,  
Who oft *mills Dock at Block*.

I'm known by all the deep ones well,  
About Saltpetre Bank;  
And always ready, *prigs* can tell,  
To *gig a Smithfield hank*.

I'll race my *Jack*, or bait a *bull*,  
Or fight my *doodle-doo*;  
I'll *flash a quid* with any *cull*,  
And *fly a pigeon blue*.

I'm up to all your knowing rigs,  
Ye biddies queer and flash ;  
I'm company for scamps and prigs,  
Sometimes for men of cash.

My Mott oft tips the knowing dive,  
When sea-crabs gang the stroll ;  
Unless she did, how could we thrive,  
And in warm flannel roll ?

I shew more conscience in my whack  
Than Fox, with all his skill ;  
While he takes Houses on his back,  
I but my pockets fill.

Explanation of the flash terms.—*Peck and boose*—meat and drink. *Ken*—a house. *Tyke*—a dog. *Moon-eyed hen*—a squinting woman. *Mills dock at Block*—beats hemp. *Prigs*—pick-pockets. *Hank*—a bull, or over-driven ox. *Quid*—a guinea. *Fly a blue pigeon*—steal lead from roofs. *Queer and flash biddies*—thieves and cheats. *Scamps*—highwaymen. *Men of cash*—gamblers. *Mott*—a flash woman. *Sea-crabs*—sailors. *To roll in warm flannel*—to get drunk. *Than Fox, with all his skill*—alluding to a caricature of Fox with the India-House on his back.

**SPORTING ENGAGEMENTS.**  
**SEPTEMBER.**

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DATES.	MEMORANDUMS.

**DATES.****MEMORANDUMS.**

<b>DATES.</b>	<b>REMARKS.</b>

**SPORTING ENGAGEMENTS.**  
**OCTOBER.**

1

2 *Say Wood*

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9 *Gatelywood Common*

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14 *Smell's Woods*

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17 *Battery*

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20 *Hendon Hall*

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DATES.	MEMORANDUMS.

<b>DATES.</b>	<b>MEMORANDUMS.</b>

DATES.	REMARKS.

**SPORTING ENGAGEMENTS.**  
**NOVEMBER.**

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4	<i>Horn-don Park</i>
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6	<i>Gatleywood Common</i>
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DATES.	MEMORANDUMS.

<b>DATES.</b>	<b>MEMORANDUMS.</b>

<b>DATES.</b>	<b>REMARKS.</b>

## SPORTING ENGAGEMENTS.

JUNE.

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DATES.	MEMORANDUMS.

<b>DATES.</b>	<b>MEMORANDUMS.</b>

DATES.	REMARKS.

# **SPORTING ENGAGEMENTS.**

## **JULY.**

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DATES.	MEMORANDUMS.

<b>DATES.</b>	<b>MEMORANDUMS.</b>

<b>DATES.</b>	<b>REMARKS.</b>

**SPORTING ENGAGEMENTS.**  
**AUGUST.**

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<b>DATES.</b>	<b>MEMORANDUMS.</b>

<b>DATES.</b>	<b>MEMORANDUMS.</b>

<b>DATES.</b>	<b>REMARKS.</b>

A TABULAR VIEW  
OF THE  
GAME LAWS.

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*Qualification to Sport.*—A freehold or copyhold estate of 100*l.* yearly value, in the sportsman's own right, or that of his wife,—or leasehold property for life, or ninety-nine years, of 150*l.* yearly value, (Stat. 22 and 23 Char. II. chap. 25), and payment of the certificate duty, (Stat. 9 Anne, chap. 25).

The penalty for sporting without such qualification is 5*l.* for each offence; and without certificate, 20*l.* and the certificate duty.

But the son and heir-apparent of an esquire, persons of higher degree, lords of manors, owners and keepers of forests, parks, chases, and warrens, and gamekeepers duly appointed, (Stat. 22 and 23 Char. II. chap. 25); as also persons merely aiding qualified and certificated persons in killing game for their own use, (Stat. 54 Geo. III. chap. 141), require no qualification, but only payment of the certificate duty; from which payment also the last described persons are exempt.

*Certificate Duty.*—Qualified persons taking or killing game (except rabbits by persons in inclosed grounds in their own occupation, and woodcocks, snipes, &c. in nets or springs), and gamekeepers not being servants,

must pay *3l. 13s. 6d.* duty; and gamekeepers, being servants duly registered, *1l. 5s.* (Stat. 52 Geo. II<sup>E</sup>. chap. 93.)

Certificated persons, owners and occupiers of lands, collectors, assessors, commissioners of taxes, and gamekeepers may demand of sportsmen a view of their certificate, or on non-production thereof, their name and residence. Refusal to comply, or giving a false name or residence, or producing a false certificate, penalty *20l.* (Stat. 48 Geo. III. chap. 55.)

*At what Seasons Game may be taken.*

*Heath Fowl*, called *Black Game*—between the 20th of August and 10th of December; (Stat. 13 Geo. III. chap. 55).

*Grouse*, called *Red Game*—between the 12th of August and December the 10th, (*ibid.*)

*Partridges*—between the 1st of September and 1st February, (2 Geo. III. chap. 9).

*Pheasants*—between the 1st of Oct. and 1st February, (*ibid.*)

*Wild Duck, Teal, Widgeon, and other Water Fowl*—between the 1st of October and 1st June, (Stat. 9 Anne, chap. 25).

*Bustards*—between September 1st and March 1st, (Stat. 13 Geo. III. chap. 55).

*Hares*.—Qualified persons may take hares at any time of the year, provided it be in day-time.

And game is not to be pursued or killed between the hours of seven at night and six in the morning, from 12th of October to 12th of February; or between nine

at night and four in the morning, from 12th of February to 12th of October; or on a Sunday, or Christmas-Day, (Stat. 13 Geo. III. chap. 55).

### *Penalties for Killing Game at improper Seasons.*

Heath fowl, grouse, or bustards, for the first offence from 10*l.* to 20*l.* for each fowl, and for every subsequent offence from 20*l.* to 30*l.* (Stats. 2 Geo. II. chap. 19, and 19 Geo. III. chap. 34); wild water-fowl, 5*s.* for each fowl, and forfeiture of bags, nets, or tunnels used in taking them, (Stat. 9 Anne, chap. 25); and to pursue or kill game in the night, or on a Sunday, or Christmas Day, for the first offence from 10*l.* to 20*l.*—for the second, from 20*l.* to 30*l.*—and for every subsequent offence, 50*l.* (Stat. 13 Geo. III. chap. 80).

### *Poaching, or other Unlawful Destruction of Game.*

To enter any forest, park, or open or inclosed ground, between six in the evening and seven in the morning, from the 1st of October to February 1st; between seven in the evening and five in the morning, from the 1st of February to the 1st of April; and between nine in the evening and four in the morning for the rest of the year: armed, and having any net or other instrument, with intent to kill game, or wilfully to destroy game, or to aid and assist therein, subjects to transportation for seven years, (Stat. 57 Geo. III. chap. 90). To trace hares in the snow, or to takethem ingins, penalty 20*l.* (Stat. 1 James, chap. 27); and to be found using or setting gins, penalty 10*s.* (Stat. 22 and 23 Char. II.

chap. 25). And rangers, keepers, &c. may apprehend offenders, and take from them their arms, snares, dogs, &c. as also the game they have unlawfully taken, (Stat. 57 Geo. III. chap. 90).

And justices, lords of manors, and gamekeepers, may seize all guns, dogs, nets, &c. used by unqualified persons, as also the game they may have taken, (Stats. 5 Anne, chap. 14, and 9 Anne, chap. 25).

Gamekeepers selling game without the consent of their lords, subject to three months' imprisonment, or forfeiture of 5*l.* (Stat. 9 Anne, chap. 25).

Gamekeepers are liable to the same penalties as persons unqualified, if they pursue or kill game out of their manors; but not to forfeiture of guns or dogs.

### *Buying and Selling Game.*

If any person, whether qualified or unqualified, buys, sells, exposes or offers to sale any game, penalty 5*l.* (Stats. 5 Anne, chap. 14, and 58 Geo. III. chap. 85).

Persons buying, selling, or offering to sell game, discovering any other person guilty of the like offence, committed within six months, are exempt from the penalty, (Stat. 58 Geo. III. chap. 85).

Game found in the possession of poulters, salesmen, fishmongers, cooks, pastry-cooks, penalty 5*l.* (28 Geo. II. chap. 12); and of unqualified persons, if not ticketed by a qualified person, or that a good account cannot be given how they came by it, penalty from 5*s.* to 20*s.* (Stat. 9 Anne, chap. 25).

**THE**

**FISHING TABLE.**

**o 2**

<i>Names : and where found.</i>	<i>Season.</i>	<i>Time to Angle.</i>
<b>BREAM.</b> In rivers : in soft streams, in the deepest and broadest parts near weeds, where the bottom is clay or sand. In ponds : in the quietest and deepest parts.	From May till Sept.	8 in the morning until 8 ; and from 5 in the afternoon until dark.
<b>CHUB.</b> In angles and deep holes of rivers, where the stream is not quick ; under shade of trees, weeds, or hollow banks, in a clayey or sandy bottom.	From Aug. till March ; best in winter months.	In mild cloudy weather will bite all day ; in hot, from sun-rise till 9, and from 3 p. m. till sun-set ; in cold, middle of day.
<b>BARBEL.</b> Middle of ponds, in rivers during summer, the strongest currents, under bridges, near wiers, among piles, hollow places, and under mossy weeds.	From May till August.	From sun-rise till 10 in the morning ; and from 4 p. m. till sun-set.
<b>SMELT.</b> In docks, and at the stern of ships, in tide rivers.—To fish at sterns, a paternoster line, with five or six hooks, is to be used.	From April till October.	All the day ; best when the tide runs up.
<b>SALMON.</b> Violent streams and large rivers, whilst at feed ; when off their prey, the deep and broad parts, and generally middle of the river, near the ground.	From April till August.	From 6 till 9 in the morning, and from 3 p. m. till sun-set.
<b>GRAYLING.</b> Clay bottom, clear water ; and swift streams.	All the year ; chiefly from Sept. to Jan.	All day in cool cloudy weather.
<b>GUDGEON.</b> Gravelly, sandy ground, and gentle streams.	From May till October.	All day . . . . .

<i>Depth from Ground.</i>	<b>BAITS.</b>			
	<i>Worms.</i>	<i>Flies.</i>	<i>Pastes.</i>	<i>Fishes, &amp;c.</i>
Touch the ground.....	2,3,7....	2. under water.	1,2 .....	8. in June or July.
In fishing with float in warm weather, at mid-water: in cool, lower; and in cold, at the ground.	1,2,4,5,6.	1,2,3,4,5.	1,2 .....	7,8,9.
Touch ground .....	2,7,9.....	.....	4 .....	
The baits to sink two or three yards.	1,2,6,9.....	.....	.....	5. cut in pieces. 10. small and unboiled.
Touch ground with lob-worm; smaller worms, bobs, and cad-bait, at top of the water.	7.....	Large and the more gaudy the better.	.....	1.
Cold weather, at bottom; in hot weather, top or mid-water.	1,2,3,4,5.	1,2,3,4,5.	.....	.....
Near, or on the ground ..	2,9 .....	.....	.....	.....

<i>Names : and where found.</i>	<i>Season.</i>	<i>Time to Angle.</i>
<b>BLEAK.</b> Sandy bottom, deep rivers ; at the sides and tails of streams, where the water eddies and turns gently back ; ships' sterns.	All the year but May, when they are spawning.	All day.....
<b>DACE.</b> Sandy bottom, deep rivers ; holes well shaded in summer ; shallow near fords, under banks, and among weeds.	From April to Feb. best in winter.	All day.....
<b>ROACH.</b> Deep gentle running waters ; holes that are well shaded, having fine gravel or sandy bottom ; best in ships' sterns ; bridges.	From July till March ; best in Feb.	In mild cloudy weather, all day ; in hot, morn and eve ; in cold, the mid. of day.
<b>PERCH.</b> In rivers ; gentle streams, not over deep, where there are weeds, hollow banks, and at gravelly bottoms. In ponds ; deep holes, near weeds or stumps of trees.	From April till January.	Sun-rise till 10 ; from 2 till sun-set : if weather be cloudy, with ruffling south wind, will bite all day.
<b>POPE.</b> Deep still water .....	May to Oct.	All day.....
<b>CARP.</b> Still, deep, muddy bottom, pond or river.	Mar. to Aug.	Early and late as possible.
<b>TENCH.</b> River or pond, among weeds, muddy bottom.	From Sept. till June.	Early and late as possible.
<b>TROUT.</b> Swift clean rivers, over pebbles, stony bottoms.	Mar. to Michaelmas.	All day.....
<b>PIKE.</b> Sandy or clay bottoms, under bull-rushes, weeds, water-docks, or bushes.	From May till Feb.	With a gentle gale, all day.
<b>EEL.</b> —Among weeds, roots and holes in banks & stones at bottom ; about bridges, wiers, mills.	From May till Sept.	All day, when the water is thick by rains.

<i>Depth from Ground.</i>	<i>BAITS.</i>			
	<i>Worms.</i>	<i>Flies.</i>	<i>Pastes.</i>	<i>Fishes, &amp;c.</i>
A Little deeper than mid-water.	2,6,9....	1,2,7....	1.....	.....
3 inches from bottom, or at top of the water.	1,2,3,6,9.	1,2,3,4,5,5,6.... 6,7.	.....	.....
1 inch from bottom .....	1,2,3,4,5, 6,9.	1,2,4,5,7. Under water.	1,5,6....	8.
Mid-water, or 6 inches from bottom.	1,2,6,8,9.	.....	.....	1,6.
6 inches from bottom .....	8,9....	.....	.....	.....
3 inch from bottom ; mid-water in hot weather.	1,2,3,4,8.	.....	3,5,6....	.....
6 inches from bottom ; among weeds 2 ft. deep ; mid-wat. in hot weather.	1,2,4,9 .	.....	2,5.....	.....
Cold weather, 6 inch. to 9 from bottom ; in hot, top to mid-water.	1,3,5,6,7, 8,9.	1,2,3,4,5, 6,7.	.....	1,8,9.
Mid-water, if with a float, and single snap-hook.	.....	.....	.....	1,2,3,4,6.
On the ground.....	4,7 .....	.....	.....	1,2.

## REFERENCES TO THE PRECEDING TABLE.

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### *Descriptions of Bobs and Worms.*

1. *Earth Bob* : found in sandy or light ground after the plough ; the rooks will direct where this grub is to be met with by their close attendance on the plough ; is white, bigger than a gentle, with a red head. Another is found in heathy ground, with a black or blue head. Either of these are to be got by digging one spit deep in the above-mentioned soils, where they have long remained unploughed. Keep them in an earthen vessel, well covered, with a sufficient quantity of the mould they harbour in, with dryish moss at top, and let them be in a warm place ; are excellent from the beginning of November to the middle of April.

2. *Gentles* : to be had from putrid flesh ; let them be put into wheat bran two or three days before used.

3. *Flag Worms* : found amongst roots of flags, is a pale yellow, longer and thinner than a gentle ; must be kept like the cad-bait.

4. *Wasp Grubs or Wasp Maggots* : found in the cakes or cells as taken in the nest ; before using, put them into an oven after the bread is drawn, or dry them on a tile before the fire, just to harden and make them tough.

5. *Cow-dung Bob, or Clap-Bait* : found under a cow-drop from May to Michaelmas, is larger, but like a gentle ; to be preserved in its native earth, as number 1.

6. *Cadis Worm, or Cad-Bait* : found under loose stones, in shallow rivers or brooks, are covered with husks of sticks, straw, rushes, and stones ; they are yellow, bigger than a gentle, with a black or blue head. Keep them in flannel or linen bags, and dip them, bag and all, into water once a day, for five or six days, they will then become tough, and fitter for angling than when first taken from the water.

7. *Lob, or Dew-Worm* : found in gardens, is very large, having a red head, a streak down the back, and a broad flat tail ; those with a knot are fit only for eels.

8. *Marsh-Worm*: found in marshy ground, are of a blueish colour, and require more scouring in moss than most other worms; are a good bait from March to Michaelmas.

9. *Branding, Red, or Blood-Worm*: found in rotten dunghills and tanner's bark that has been used. The red worm found at the root of a great dock, and which lies wrapt up in a round clue, is a particular bait for bream. The common red worm is very good for all small fish.

*Flies : where found.*

1. *Stone Fly*: under hollow stones at the sides of rivers, is of a brown colour, with yellow streaks on the back and belly, has large wings. In season from April to July.

2. *Green Drake*: among stones by rivers' sides, has a yellow body ribbed with green, is long and slender, his wings like a butterfly's, his tail turns on his back. Very good from May to Midsummer.

3. *Oak-Fly*: upon the body of an old oak or ash tree, with its head downwards, is of a brown colour. From May to September. Excellent for trout in clear water, putting a cad-bait on the point of the hook, and letting it sink a few inches, and gradually raising it.

4. *Palmer-Fly, or Worm*: upon the leaves of plants, is commonly called a caterpillar; when it turns to a fly, very good for trout.

5. *Ant-Fly*: in ant-hills. From June to September. A handful of the earth, with as much of the grass that grows on their hillocks, put into a glass bottle with the ant-flies, will keep them alive.

6. *May-Fly*: playing at the river side, especially before rain.

7. *Black Fly*: upon every hawthorn bush after the buds appear.

*Mem.* Artificial Flies may be procured at the shops where fishing tackle is sold. Worms of various sorts, and other baits, are also generally kept in the season ready prepared for use.

*Pastes : how to be made.*

1. *Red Paste*: the crumb of fine new white bread (without being made wet) worked up in the hand, and coloured with vermillion as near as possible to that of the salmon's roe.

2. *Brown Paste*: the grub of brown bread, mixed with honey, worked up in the same manner.
3. Blood of a sheep's lamb mixed with honey and flour, and worked to a proper consistency.
4. Old cheese, grated, butter sufficient to work it, and coloured with saffron; if in winter, use the fat of tacy bacon instead of butter.
5. Crumbs of bread worked with honey or sugar, and moistened with gum-ivy water.
6. Bread chewed, and worked in the hand until stiff.

*Fish and Insects.*

1. Minnow.	5. Smelt.	8. Grasshopper.
2. Gudgeon.	6. Yellow Frug.	9. Beetle.
3. Roach.	7. Snail-slit.	10. Shrimp.
4. Dace.		

## APPENDIX.

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### TREATMENT OF ANIMALS.

THE merciful treatment of all brute animals, as a moral duty, ought to be an essential part of the education of children; and not in the loose and general way in which it has hitherto been inculcated, but in the most particular and circumstantial lessons, that no improper acts may be overlooked, or sanctioned by heedless and unreflecting custom. The truth that, brute beasts were sent for the use of man, is constantly giving rise to the grossest misconceptions, the generality of mankind thence not conceiving themselves bound by the rules of justice or mercy towards the lower animal creation, but invariably treating them as interest, or the pleasurable gratification of the moment may dictate. The slightest reflection of a rational mind must yet bring full conviction of the error and immorality of such a principle. *Wherein is life and feeling, there must necessarily exist the right to justice and claim of mercy.* Beasts

were doubtless intended by nature for the use and purposes of man—but not for abuse and torture, to which his right by nature neither does, nor possibly can extend : thence such abuse is a *crime* for which man must be responsible. To come to the practical lesson : it is lawful—it is unavoidable—for man to kill the animals beneath him, and intrusted to his care, whether for food, or for any other proper purpose ; and it is his duty to perform the operation, with the least possible trespass upon the feelings of the victim. The pursuit of wild animals as a sport, is both customary and lawful, but the animals pursued should have *fair play*, that is to say, no unnecessarily protracted sufferings, no torturing inflictions should be used ; which, if they can occasion gratification in a human breast, such must be of an unnatural, cowardly, base, and grovelling kind. The noble hunting horse should be a sharer in the pleasures of the field, not the sad and sobbing victim of hard-hearted and head-strong excess ; the competition with his master is too great an honour for him, when he is the nobler brute of the two. He who labours a horse or any animal beyond his powers, or on any pretence stints him of the food necessary to support his labour and preserve his health, commits a great crime and a gross cheat. *All baiting of animals at the stake, is detestable, shameful, unmanly, and the de-*

*light in such may be fairly classed with unnatural propensities ; nothing indeed can wipe out such a stain from the character of society, but staking down and baiting the hardened and incorrigible perpetrators with their own bull-dogs.* A fellow-feeling might teach mercy, when all instructions fail. Wounded game should be instantly put out of their sufferings, which may be performed by a smart stroke on the back part of the head, against the butt end of the gun. Eels and carp, it is said, may be killed, at least deprived of all sense of feeling, by being punctured through the brain ; as to eels, skinning them is needless torture, since their skin is a good eatable gelatinous substance. The *Cat* is an everlasting subject of gross cruelty, most particularly in being turned out to starve. Too many of them are bred. The easiest mode to kill a cat, in the house, is, to bind a cloth upon the head, around the neck, and striking it on the back of the head, to immerse its head first, in a pail of water, holding it down with an old broom, shovel, &c. Tying it up in a strong bag, still more easy and safe. Small dogs may be killed in the same way.

All remedies, even the most powerful and rational, for *canine madness*, have hitherto failed in turn ; it is thence a miserable delusion to recommend or put faith in those of inferior or equivocal efficacy, notwithstanding the most ge-

neral warranty of their success. Let it never be forgotten, that the celebrated Dr. Mead pretended *liver-wort* to be an infallible remedy in this horrible case, on the experience of thirty-years! The famous Ormeskirk medicine has no more relation to the cure of this disease, or power to effect it, than powder of post; and the vendors of such deceptive quackery merit general reprehension. Immersion in water, salt or flesh, is perhaps of no consequence in the case. Caustics and exsection of the bitten parts have failed. Bleeding to the utmost limit, failed last year, and often before. Lately, some flattering accounts of cures of this dreadful malady, by the use of the herb-water plantain, have been imported from Russia, in the apprehension of the present writer, little deserving of attention. The last proposed remedy is the dropping of vitriolic acid into the wounds, which is merely a repetition of the old remedy by caustic. The only resource in this sad case, is in the judgment of the ablest medical men.

*Worming* the dog, with a view of preventing madness, or biting, is one of the thousand fooleries derived from antiquity; and the instances are numerous, of wormed dogs biting in their rabid state. The skinny substance called a worm, is merely a portion of the *frænum*, or bridle of the tongue, sometimes clipped, in infants, by the scissars of the nurse. No dependence should be

placed on such a piece of vulgar trickery, the only consequence of which is, a needless infliction on the feelings of animals.

In the constitutional malady, commonly called *Distemper* in dogs, the patient should be supplied with warm milk and water, gruel, broth or whey; fresh air, at the same time, with a warm and dry bed; the weather being cold, with the indulgence of lying to enjoy himself occasionally by the fire-side. From two to three grains of calomel, lapped by the animal in milk, or wrapped in bread and butter, continued for four or five days, with intermissions, if necessary, will generally be all that is wanted of medicine. If he refuse food, his palate should be tempted. The symptomatic fever running high, from eight to sixteen grains of *antimonial powder*, may be given in balls, the size of a hazle-nut, the balls to be composed of treacle or honey and flour, and slightly rubbed over with fresh butter or lard. A table-spoonful or two of castor-oil also is beneficial; or a tea-spoonful of rhubarb, given with the calomel; or *Blaine's Distemper remedy*, with directions.

To recover the dog's strength on convalescence—light flesh meat; rich broths of beef or neat's feet, or milk broth with flour or rice; balls of beef slack boiled and beat in a mortar; beer cordial, with ginger, moderately sweetened. As to medicines in this intention—bark in port wine,

or sound beer, is perhaps the most efficacious. The nose and eyes should be wiped with a soft cloth, and kept clean, and a clean, dry bed allowed. Eating grass and lapping fine running water, is materially instrumental to recovery. To preserve house-dogs and cats in health and condition, regular feeding and flesh meat, at least, once a day is necessary, with dry and comfortable lodging. For the house dog, to keep him in health, exercise abroad is indispensable, and access to dog-grass extremely beneficial. For high-fed dogs, particularly if without exercise, medicine every two or three months is absolutely necessary, to preserve their health, and may be preventive of the dreadful rabid disease. Calomel and sulphur are the proper medicines. Animals will become accustomed to sulphurated water, and drink it freely. The cat ought never to be expected to subsist on vermin, which, as food, is destructive to its health. A good cat is a true hunter, and catches her prey for pleasure. Yard dogs have become rabid from fullness of blood, in consequence of long close confinement; such should not only have occasional medicine, but be allowed occasional exercise. The best purge for a dog is siccotrine, or fine aloes; half a dram for a small dog, to nearly a dram; for a full-sized hound, two or three drams. Envelope or inclose the powder in a ball of flour and hard or batter. In order to ad-

minister medicine to a dog, he must be placed upright on his hinder legs, between the knees of a seated person, the dog's back towards him. Apply a napkin round the dog's shoulders, bringing it forward over the fore legs. The mouth being forced open by the pressure of the fore-finger and thumb upon the lips of the upper jaw, the medicine may be introduced with the other hand, and passed sufficiently far into the throat. The mouth must then be closed, and kept so, until the medicine is seen to pass down. With large and strong dogs, sufficient assistance will in course be necessary, and the mouth may be held open by a piece of strong tape, applied behind the holders or fangs of each jaw. The ball or bolus should be passed completely over the root of the tongue, and dexterously pushed some way backwards and downwards. In giving liquids, the quantity being too large for one swallow, it must be given at intervals, being removed from the mouth, and the dog's head eased at each deglutition, or he may be strangled. The head should be completely secured and a small degree elevated.

Either want of food or the excess of it, may produce the Monge. The best food for the dog and eat, consists of both animal and vegetable diet; of the latter, oatmeal and potatoes are the most useful. Mercurial unction is most efficacious

in the mange, care being taken to keep the animal from wet and cold, and excess being avoided in the quantity used, that he may not be too strongly affected. He should be prevented from licking himself, by the muzzle. In a slight case, ointment of sulphur and lard will succeed. Or the following will be found sufficient in most cases—Take roll brimstone powdered four ounces, powdered foxglove two ounces, sal ammoniac powdered half an ounce, Barbadoes aloes one dram, turpentine half an ounce, lard six or eight ounces, mixt.

To *dress* a dog. This, to perform it efficaciously, requires at least two hours. The coat should be parted almost hair by hair, and a small quantity of ointment rubbed actually on the skin, by the end of the finger, between the parted hairs. It is of no use merely to grease the dog's coat. The finish is neatly to smooth down the hair. After three or four dressings, wash the dog in warm soap and water, and anoint again, until the eruptions are dead. The dog should be muzzled during the operation. This is Mr. Blaine's practice. The same ointment may be applied to eruptions or *canker* in the ear: one third part water may be sometimes necessary, or rather perhaps an additional quantity of lard, and care should be taken to guard the dog's eyes. Care is also necessary in the persons operating, to prevent

the pungent and disgusting effluvia from the mange affecting their olfactory nerves, by the use of a scented handkerchief held to the nostrils.

Fits in young dogs, require similar treatment as in the *distemper*. Sometimes cold water thrown upon them, will recover them and be beneficial. They should then be rubbed and kept dry. If the cause be want of exercise with high keep, bleeding and evacuants. A certain cure for dog or cat subject to frequent convulsions—shoot them. For worms give aloes and calomel. Two or three days after, commence a course of worm medicine as follows—finest tin filings two drams, cowhage half a dram, calomel fourteen grains : make four, six, or eight balls, according to the size or constitution of the dog, giving one every morning for a fortnight, with occasional omissions if necessary, the patient in the mean time, being lodged warm and comfortable, and kept on a sufficiency of wholesome food. In some cases, one or two large spoonfuls of linseed oil, with a tea-spoonful of oil of turpentine, given every morning fasting for a week, will eradicate the worms. This medicine in proper quantities, has also succeeded with the human patient.

The best general application for wounds, is *Friar's balsam*, which any apothecary can make up. The common defect of the balsam is healing or hardening the surface of the wound too soon,

which the apothecary can possibly rectify. Brandy with a few drops of laudanum, is a good healer, or tincture of myrrh-aloes. Extract thorns and splinters immediately and carefully, and keep wounds clean. Poultice or black pitch plaster the best remedy to extract thorns. *Swelled teats*—rub with pomade of goose grease and camphorated spirit or brandy, two or three times a day. For *sore feet*, not brine, sometimes used, but, butter milk, greasy pot-liquor or water gruel. To *harden* the feet, brine and vinegar. The dog to be strictly kept in, until the feet are recovered, or they may be wrapped up. *Cropping* should never be performed by the barbarous and silly mode of whirling the animal round by the ears, in order to tear and twist them off; but they should be cut off, if necessary, *never at all else*, with a sharp pair of scissars, in the fourth or fifth week of the puppy's age. The bitch should not lick them, if to be prevented. Cropping is yet a remedy for inveterate scab in the ears. *Fleas*—continue to kill them, one by one, till the last is dead. Lather the dog's coat thoroughly, with the strongest soap, adding pearl-ash, if necessary. Wash clean. Perform this operation as often as necessary. *Prob. est!*

The best remedy for the almost constant *costiveness* of dogs, is the allowance of boiled greens, carrots or parsnips. Sheeps' heads and sheeps'

trotters, boiled to soup, with oatmeal or pollard, form the most nourishing food for dogs; in feeding of which, or of any other animals, constant care should be taken, that the weak be not driven from their meal by the strong.

It is a thoughtless and abominable practice, to turn out and abandon a poor dog, or cat, to starve by inches and prey upon the public, the animal thereby incurring the most cruel inflictions. With respect to *Madness*; a certain person boasted that, "he had sufficient firmness to resist the popular cry, and to save his dog, which had bitten two children." Such *firmness*, however, might too soon acquire the name of an antisocial and unpardonable temerity, with the addition of bitter repentance. Favouritism ought never for a moment to stand in competition with human safety; not to say merely in matter of life and death, but at the risk of the most horrible of all deaths! This remark will be understood to apply to those who *madly* run the risk and suffer their dog, suspected however, to be at large; but in another view, it may be of the greatest consequence, to preserve the life of a suspected dog, by which animals or persons have been bitten, for satisfaction, and as a guide to the medical attendants, although by no means an infallible one. Such dog should be placed in the safe custody of proper persons, and when no longer wanted, *be put out of life*, since the

risk is certainly too great, and not at all consonant with public justice, to preserve any animal which has once shewn rabid symptoms. The bodies of the Mad Dogs destroyed, should be dissected by Veterinary Anatomists, in order to leave no mode untried of attaining every possible addition to our stock of knowledge of the Disease. The Beadle, or *Heward* of the Parish should have a satisfactory extra allowance, to encourage him to a strict performance of the duties of this business; and if, in large towns, men were to be found, who would, for a small fee, deprive animals of life, in a skilful and easy manner, it would be a great convenience to those, who finding their dogs and cats burdensome, can devise no better remedy than to discharge that burden upon the public. When *influenzal* Weather has lasted for any length of time, affecting human patients with *Catarrhal Fever*, *Sore Throat*, *Ophthalmia*, and other usual concomitants, but more especially, if such a state of the atmosphere should occur in two or three successive, or nearly successive seasons, Madness and Epizootics in Dogs and Cats, Horses, and other cattle, may be expected, on the almost invariable experience of former times.

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